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Petersburg bags Club 200's grand raffle prize. PAGE 2

Stolen HPO vehicle recovered. PAGE 3

Taitano

Body of missing Taitano found at bottom of cliffline

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With the aid of a dog, search teams found the body of Joan L. Taitano yesterday morning at the bottom of a cliffline near the radar building in Marpi.

Acting police spokesman Jason Tarkong confirmed later in the afternoon yesterday that the body was indeed that of the 37-year-old Taitano, who has been missing since Thursday.

It is not clear yet whether investigators found foul play or not. Tarkong did not provide more details.

In a press briefing at the radar building area yesterday morning, Tarkong said that crime scene technicians have processed Taitano's white 2016 Toyota Yaris to check for evidence.

Police recovered the vehicle near the radar building on Monday after lunch. The car was locked when a patrol unit found the vehicle parked on the pave-

See BODY on Page 4

'We are making history'

» CPA board OKs Tinian divert plan

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

SAN JOSE, Tinian—The Commonwealth Ports Authority board unanimously approved yesterday the U.S. Air Force's layout plan for an alternative landing site—or divert airfield—on Tinian.

The plan will form part of the CPA's own airport layout plan to be submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for review and approval.

The U.S. Air Force prepared the Pacific Air Force Divert and Exercise airport layout plan and feasibility study for the CPA in December 2016.

The divert airfield is intended to become an alternative landing site for U.S. Air Force planes on case the airfield on Anderson Air Force Base in Guam is unavailable due to war, disaster, etc.

According to Barrie Toves, who chairs the CPA board's Airport Facilities Committee, this is history in the making.

See HISTORY on Page 4

TRICK-OR-TREAT!
Dozens of trick-or-treaters line up for their bags of candies yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office. The island's hordes of children had many choices yesterday on where to go trick-or-treating, with many companies joining Trunk-or-Treat events in different parts of Saipan.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

PSS chief fired

» Yvonne Pangelinan is acting PSS chief

Deleon Guerrero

Education Commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero has been terminated from her post, effective Nov. 5, 2017.

In her stead, Yvonne Pangelinan, the associate commissioner for student and support services, would serve as the acting education commissioner.

See STORY on Page 2

Murder suspect allegedly admits attacking two

» Claims he smoked 'ice,' drank beer that day
» No bail for suspect

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The suspect in a knife attack that killed a woman and wounded her husband in Chalan Kanoa Sunday night admitted to police that he took drugs and was heavily drunk on the day he stabbed the couple, according to court documents.

Alfonso Sebastian Parongan, 55, was taken to the Superior Court

See MURDER on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
President Donald Trump's former campaign chairman is indicted by the FBI.
PAGE 14

ASIA
Asylum seekers on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island want to keep the facility open.
PAGE 15

LIFE & STYLE
Netflix has pulled the plug on Kevin Spacey's hit show "House of Cards."
PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

KEEN INTEREST
Chinese travel agents join and celebrate with the community led by Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, Reps. Ivan Blanco, Alice Igitol, and John Paul Sablan during the arrival of Okeanos Marianas on Monday morning. These travel agents have expressed keen interest and are impressed by the local culture and traditions.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS commissioner fired

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In a move that caught even Education Commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero by surprise, she is being terminated from her post effective Nov. 5, 2017.

In her stead, Yvonne Pangelinan, the associate commissioner for student and support services, would serve as the acting education commissioner.

Board of Education chair Marylou Ada, who spoke with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said the BOE is implementing "another approach as far as education [is concerned]."

» Associate commissioner Yvonne Pangelinan is acting commissioner

When asked why Deleon Guerrero was let go, Ada merely said the reasons were "personnel matters that are very confidential."

"Commissioner Deleon Guerrero served us well and we remain positive and focused as we go through this transition phase," said Ada. "We are very positive and very focused because we have schools to run."

Deleon Guerrero, as the sole employee of the CNMI Board of Education, heads the Public School System, which has over 2,000 employees.

According to Ada, the BOE unanimously voted to terminate Deleon Guerrero, who is currently in Honolulu, Hawaii, to attend a Head Start conference.

Deleon Guerrero

In an email message to PSS employees, Deleon Guerrero said the BOE sent her termination notice via email, which said her termination would be effective on Nov. 5, 2017, the day she is scheduled to return to the CNMI. The BOE letter to Deleon Guerrero stated it to be a termination without cause.

Prior to that action, Deleon Guerrero said she submitted to the BOE last Oct. 6, 2017, a "letter of concern." She did not specify what those concerns were in her email message to PSS staff but, according to a social media post Deleon Guerrero made later, she said that information would be made public.

"They never responded [to the letter of concern] except for this termination letter, which I received upon landing in Honolulu," said Deleon Guerrero in her email.

"Despite the disruption that this will inevitably cause, I ask that everyone remains focused and strong in continuing our services, advocacy, and work for our students. Our students have and must remain our focus, your focus. I thank you all for your dedication and commitment to PSS," added Deleon Guerrero's email.

Deleon Guerrero became the education commissioner on Nov. 21, 2016. She succeeded Dr. Rita Sablan after the latter retired as PSS commissioner in August 2016.

In the period since August 2016 up to Deleon Guerrero's assumption of office, PSS was functioning through acting commissioners.

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Petersburg bags Club 200's grand raffle prize

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter's 28th Annual Club 200 gave away over $100,000 worth of prizes to 25 raffle winners last Saturday, with the $15,000 grand prize going to a local lawyer.

Prizes included gift certificates for up to $100 worth of groceries, electronic gadgets, roundtrip tickets to the U.S. mainland and Asia, branded handbags, household appliances, gift certificates for lunches and brunches for different eating establishments, gift certificates for hotel stays and activities offered in hotels, and the grand prize of $15,000.

The grand raffle prize of $15,000 went to Benjamin Petersburg. He and his wife, Nola Hix, who is co-chair of the Club 200 event, were thrilled and shocked upon receiving the grand prize.

According to Petersburg, he intends to dedicate the money to his newborn daughter, Aliana. "This is going to buy a lot of diapers," he added.

The first place raffle prize was awarded to Rob Epley, the second place prize was awarded to IT&E, the third place prize went to Ma. Cristina Sta. Ana, the fourth place prize went to James Benedetto, the fifth place prize was awarded to TakeCare Insurance, the sixth place prize went to Esther Monique DLGuerrero, the seventh place prize was awarded to Zerah Santos, the eighth place went to TakeCare again, ninth place went to MITA Travel, the 10th place prize went to Rory Starkey, the 11th place prize went to James Camacho, the 12th place prize went to Diego Camacho, the 13th place prize went to Pete Tomokane, 14th place went to Mike Sablan, 15th place went to Conrad Castro, 16th place went to Manu Melwami, 17th place went to Genpro International, 18th place went to Alexander Martin, 19th place went to Nikki Sablan, 20th place went to Eleanor Cabrera, 21st place prize went to Allen Perez, 22nd place went to N15 Architecture, 23rd place went to Jimmy Sison, 24th place went to Natalia Sablan, and the 25th place went to Francisco Deleon Guerrero.

According to J.D. Tenorio, ARC-NMI Chapter Disaster Program manager, over 1,000 people were present and were entered into the raffle.

Separate prizes were given out to the winners of the costume competition and the dance competition.

The dance competition winners and costume competition winners received gift certificates to various restaurants.

The winners for the dance competition were the pirate duo of Kip Aiko and Keli Tenorio.

Costume contest winners were the Dunn family in first place as Sharknado, second place winners were the Boyer family dressed as Poseidon, a mermaid, and a crab, and third place was awarded to the O'Malleys dressed as confused tourists.

The total amount raised during the fundraiser and the donations received have not been calculated yet. Tenorio said the final count would be disclosed sometime this week.

The proceeds raised will fund the many projects and programs under the ARC-NMI Chapter.

Concrete benches installed at Veterans Cemetery

Permanent concrete benches have been installed at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.

The Armed Forces Committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce recently completed a project to produce and install concrete benches at the cemetery for the comfort and convenience of the family, relatives, and friends of veterans interred there.

The committee plans to host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the cemetery on Friday, Nov. 10, starting at 9:30am.

"The [Armed Forces Committee] recognized the need to provide the community with more seating areas. We hope these newly installed benches will offer comfortable seating for those paying their last respects or wishing to reflect on their loved ones, especially during Veterans Day, which falls the day after our ribbon-cutting," said committee chair Brian Clayton of Megabyte.

Joining the ceremony are the Chamber board of directors, Veterans Affairs Office, Veterans of Foreign Wars Saipan Post 3457, sponsors, and supporters. The Armed Forces Committee also invites all veterans and the community to join the ceremony.

The committee thanks David Bush of Hawaiian Rock for his support and generous donation of the fiber-reinforced concrete and to RNV Construction for their work.

The committee engages the business community with the military by arranging "welcome receptions" for visiting military ships, arranging community outreach activities for military service personnel, providing updated brochures to military service members that include discounts offered by various Chamber members, and by keeping up-to-date on military actions and activities in the Commonwealth.

The committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month. For more information, call (670) 234-7150 or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Permanent concrete benches have been installed at the Veterans Cemetery in Marpi.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Special fund to address retirees, bond payments established

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A revolving fund account is about to be established once the House of Representatives accepts Senate revisions to a bill that establishes the account to settle the CNMI government obligation to pay minimum annual payments to retirees.

After a scuffle with Settlement Fund in 2015, the CNMI government and the Settlement Fund entered into an agreement that the Commonwealth government would make minimum annual payments to the Settlement Fund enough to enable it to pay at least 75 percent of retiree benefits.

Rep. Angel A. Demapan's (R-Saipan) House Bill 20-10 establishes the Settlement Fund revolving fund account to specifically address the annual payments to the Settlement Fund.

According to the bill, a "specified amount" in business gross revenue tax would be deposited into the fund to "ensure and protect future payments to the CNMI retirees."

Starting this fiscal year 2018 up to fiscal year 2024, predetermined amounts would be deposited into the special account from the BGRT.

Under the bill, $45 million would be deposited into the account in fiscal year 2018, $44 million in fiscal year 2019; $43 million in fiscal year 2020; $42 million in fiscal year 2021; $41 million in fiscal year 2022; $40 million in fiscal year 2023; and $39 million in fiscal year 2024.

The Senate, prior to passing the bill, added a provision through the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee to also establish a bond payment revolving fund account that annually sets aside $5.1 million for the 2007A bond and $3.3 million for the 2007B bond.

H.B. 20-10 SD1 now heads back to the House for action on the Senate revisions.

The bill passed with an 8-0 vote with Sen. Paul Mangloña (Ind-Rota) abstaining.

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Stolen HPO vehicle recovered

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The vehicle stolen from the Historic Preservation Office over the weekend was recovered yesterday, but no suspect has been arrested yet.

HPO was burglarized and vandalized by unknown perpetrators over the weekend. The perpetrator or perpetrators managed to run off with one of HPO's newer vehicles, a white 2008 Nissan Frontier pickup truck, and loaded it with other items taken from the office.

According to HPO's Mertie Kani, police found the vehicle yesterday at the old airport road in Koblerville. The vehicle was found with the battery and radiator cover stolen. The vehicle was brought back to the office and is currently awaiting a battery replacement.

Other items stolen from the office's storage room included two brand new bush cutters, a brand new chainsaw, a backpack blower, a Nauticam zoom gear lens, a Nauticam Macro port, a cell phone, and personal items that belonged to the staff of HPO.

Kani told *Saipan Tribune* that the perpetrator was able to squeeze his way through the metal gates that secured the office. "It's possible for them to get in as long as they are thin," said Kani.

The office believes the perpetrator or one of the perpetrators was a thin person because the gates showed no signs of damage.

HPO also believes the perpetrators could also be the same individuals who burglarized the office in January because they knew where and how the office could be breached and where all the security light wires were located.

The perpetrators pried the bars on the window of the men's washroom and smashed the newly installed glass windows.

The perpetrators also cut the wires of the newly installed security lights. The lights were newly installed from the last burglary as well.

Once inside the office, the perpetrators ransacked the entire office, destroying doors and desk drawers where they found the box of keys that were labeled for the storage room, the vehicles, and the back gate.

Allegedly, the vehicle was stolen for the sole purpose of transporting the stolen items.

According to Kani, the office was greatly saddened by the incident, but is moving forward and is currently tightening the security of HPO and is working on getting funding to replace the items that were stolen.

The plan is to add additional security lights and cameras, and additional bars on the windows.

Kani said this was the worst burglary incident the office has faced and the second burglary incident this year. In the first incident in January, the perpetrators were never caught.

Individuals with information on the stolen items or the whereabouts of the perpetrators are urged to contact the Department of Public Safety, HPO at 664-2120, or the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs at 664-2584.

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The men and women that made the Pacific Air Force Divert airport plan layout approval possible.
BEA CABRERA

HISTORY

From Page 1

"When we became a Commonwealth, the people of Tinian sacrificed two-thirds of the island—it was leased to the U.S. for military purposes—and yet nothing happened during those times. The plans and promises to the people of Tinian did not materialize.

"After three decades, we are here again under a different issue, because we are dealing with potentially giving up and sacrificing the northern part of CPA's property. Now, we have finally reached an agreement that is beneficial to both parties," he said.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself was present at the board meeting to show support to the layout plan.

"We are here because of a very important matter," said Torres.

He acknowledged that the airport layout plan is a very difficult proposal that is critical and crucial to the development of Tinian and the livelihood of its people.

"It's a matter that will change the course of our history," he added. "We've seen a lot of military proposals throughout the years. I myself have been a part of negotiations of these proposals for the last 10 years."

However, he said there has never been a higher level of discussion and commitment "as we have experienced in the past several months from the deputy assistant secretary of Defense, Allison R. Sands, and Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield."

Torres said he himself experienced the sincerity of people in Washington, D.C.—on Capital Hill and the Pentagon— during negotiations.

"We have committed to the [Department of Defense] that this is going to be a long-term relationship and I believe I have seen a real commitment from the DOD. I believe that the negotiation was achieved and that this is the right time for us to move forward on the airport layout plan."

"I am confident that through innovative approach, we will reach our goal in addressing the concerns of the people of Tinian, to execute decisions that will be in their benefit," he added.

As deputy assistant secretary of Defense, Sands assured that the whole region of the Western Pacific, of which the CNMI is a part of, is very important.

"There's a lot of national security interest in the region nowadays and to have an area so centrally located to be able to meet our national security objectives is very important. We are very grateful to enter this relationship for national security and defense purposes that we think will not only benefit the greater United States but also the CNMI," she said.

"The real work is just starting. Today paves the way for us to sit down and actually figure our how we are going to make this happen in a mutually beneficial way. We are very excited to have the door opened to be able to start those discussion," Sands added.

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas expressed his support by saying that the U.S. Air Force airport layout plan will improve both the military's readiness in the area as well the growth and development of the Tinian International Airport's ability to one day receive international flights.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) believes the divert field is another opportunity to enhance Tinian's economy as well as the CNMI overall economic wellbeing.

Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), who was also present yesterday, said his involvement with the divert plan began when he was invited to the initial meetings.

"The high level pre-negotiations between the governor, CPA, and DOD over past two months shows a commitment…that will directly benefit the community—tangible positive benefits to the people who will be directly impacted," Demapan said.

CPA board member Kimberly-Hinds expressed her support with passion and hope.

"I support the divert operation because of DOD's firm commitment [as] shown when they immediately began negotiations for the layout plan."

"As part of this high level negotiations, the DOD expressed firm commitment that they will not only give benefit to air and seaport activities but to directly benefit the community of Tinian such as expansion of the health clinic, paving the roads, improving infrastructure," she added.

According to Toves, the board's approval is only the start.

"The next step is for us to go back to the drawing board and, talk to our engineering department because we do have a proposed amendment the Tinian airport layout plan back in 2012 that we submitted to FAA but we had to cancel that to give way to this.

"We are going to take that product out of 2012 and merge it together with the DOD proposal for layout plan that they submitted. Both parties are committed to work together for the people of Tinian and of the Commonwealth," he added.

BODY

From Page 1

ment by the radar building, sources said.

On Monday, a dog from the K-9 unit was brought in. From the car the dog allegedly "lost" the scent at the top of the Marpi cliff, Tarkong said.

As it was getting dark, the search teams—composed of the Department of Public Safety, Customs, and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services—suspended the search on Monday, then resumed yesterday morning.

Tarkong said that at 9:25am yesterday, the teams called DPS that they have recovered a female body about 200 feet at the bottom of the cliff.

Tarkong said he could not tell yet whether the body was in a state of decomposition or not as investigators at the time were still checking the body and processing the scene.

He said family members have been notified about the body.

The uncle of Taitano and some family friends joined the search at the radar building area yesterday morning until being informed about the body being found.

Tarkong said there is a trail going down to the cliff's bottom.

He said arrangement has been made for witnesses to identify the body.

A relative told police on Sunday that Taitano was last seen Thursday night at her house in Dandan.

Taitano chaired the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness Program advisory council and was vice chair of the State Behavioral Health Council. She also served as a board member of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. She worked briefly as a *Saipan Tribune* reporter.

MURDER

From Page 1

yesterday to face charges of first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, assault with a dangerous weapon, and aggravated assault and battery.

No bail was set for the suspect; preliminary hearing is on Nov. 6 at 1:30pm.

Parongan was first taken in court yesterday at 9:30am, but Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho moved the hearing to 1:30pm as there was no interpreter.

Parongan, a Filipino national, works as a part-time welder at an auto shop in Lower Base. He refused to answer when asked if he has a passport. He was represented yesterday by assistant public defender Nancy Dominski.

Chief prosecutor Michele Harris asked the court not to impose bail, considering the seriousness of the charges.

Harris also noted that the injured victim, Antonio "Abet" Malamanig Barrit, 62, was in the courtroom with family members. Barrit had a bandage on his head and right arm due to multiple stab wounds. Shortly after the hearing, Barrit comforted some family members who were seen hugging and crying outside the courtroom.

Barrit's wife, Josephina Pineda, 53, also a Filipino national, died of multiple stab wounds on the night of the attack.

Police said the attack happened outside the victims' house beside the Lao Mart along Texas Road. Parongan was arrested that same night. He is a tenant of the victims. His house is located beside the victims' residence.

In a police interview at the Department of Corrections on Monday, Parongan admitted to having smoking methamphetamine or "ice" that Sunday, said police detective Buddy S. Igitol.

Parongan also told police that he drank 16 cans of beer with a couple of friends at a store in San Antonio until nighttime that same day.

Igitol said that Parongan returned to his home at about 7pm. Shortly after, Pineda came and asked him about his house rental payment.

After informing Pineda that his payment will be delayed, Pineda allegedly continued harassing him. Parongan said he got frustrated with what he described as continued harassment over the year, prompting him to get inside his house.

Parongan said he grabbed a big stainless kitchen knife, got out from his room, and began stabbing Pineda several times with the weapon.

He said Pineda stumbled several feet away from his unit door and fell face first onto the floor.

Parongan stated he stabbed Pineda again with the knife before he attempted to flee from the scene.

As he was about to escape, Parongan said he saw Barrit. Parongan chased Barrit, who fell to the ground. Parongan said he then hacked Barrit several times with the knife.

Someone then hit him with an unknown object, prompting him to run from the area.

Igitol said preliminary investigation showed that Parongan and Pineda's argument outside the victims' house attracted the attention of the victims' son, Jeffrey, who went out to check on the commotion and saw his father running to their house.

Jeffrey said he noticed that his father was bleeding heavily from the head and told him to check on his mother. He found his mother face down, unconscious and covered in blood several feet north of the family residence.

Jeffrey identified Parongan, also known as Arlan, at the scene.

Igitol said a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center told him that Pineda had multiple lacerations on the head and upper body.

Pineda was pronounced dead at the hospital due to a stab wound in the neck. Barrit was treated for several injuries on the head and arm. He was soon stabilized and admitted at CHC.

In an interview with police at CHC, Barrit said he was outside his home, just a short distance from where the incident took place, and was securing his tools in his boat at the time of the incident.

He said his wife, Pineda, had gone to Parongan's unit to collect payment for rent when he heard the two having an argument.

Antonio said he then saw Parongan shove Pineda, causing her to fall face down on the floor.

Barrit said he got down from the boat to check on his wife, but Parongan, who was holding a knife, immediately chased him.

Barrit said he tripped and fell to the ground and Parongan attacked him with the knife several times.

Man, 57, gets 30 years and six months for rape

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 57-year-old man who raped an 18-year-old student in a jungle near the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in 2016 was meted yesterday with a sentence of 30 years and six months in prison.

John Santos Aldan was sentenced to the maximum 30-year prison term for sexual assault in the first degree and six months in prison for disturbing the peace.

Both sentences shall run consecutively. That means Aldan will serve a total of 30 years and six months in prison, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio said the sentence and punishment will hold Aldan accountable, is proportional, and serves the interests of justice.

Assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio had recommended the maximum sentence of 30 years and six months.

She said Aldan took the victim to a deserted location, held her down, and raped her. Tenorio said that photos presented at the trial clearly demonstrated extensive bruising on the victim's hips and thighs. These injuries, Tenorio said, underscore the extreme force and violence used against the victim as she fought against Aldan when he sexually assaulted her.

The prosecutor said the victim has not been able to return to school or trust people, has turned from family and friends, drugged herself, has struggled to move on, and continues to have nightmares.

Aldan's lawyer, assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit, had recommended a sentence of 10 years imprisonment, with credit for time served, saying he is a first-time offender who could be rehabilitated.

Aldan, a citizen of Pohnpei, will likely be deported following his prison sentence.

"That reality means that this crime has not only cost him his freedom but will also likely cost him his home of nearly 50 years and his family," Nesbit said.

A jury found Aldan guilty of sexual assault in the first degree last May 26. Kim-Tenorio found him guilty of disturbing the peace.

Aldan is a retired Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant operator.

The victim told police that Aldan picked her up from school on Feb. 8, 2016. Instead of taking the usual route, he drove her to a jungle area by the airport, where he raped her inside a pickup truck. She later told her mother about the incident that led to Aldan's arrest.

Strike group sailors to volunteer in Guam

ASAN, Guam—USS *Theodore Roosevelt* Carrier Strike Group 9 sailors will volunteer in the community during a port call this week.

They will be at the Marcial Sablan Elementary School, Cmdr. William C. McCool Elementary and Middle School, Agana Heights Elementary School, Catholic Social Service Adult Day Care, and Catholic Social Service Guma Ginefli'e Dementia Day Care.

This is the strike group's first port visit during its Western Pacific Deployment. ***(PR)***

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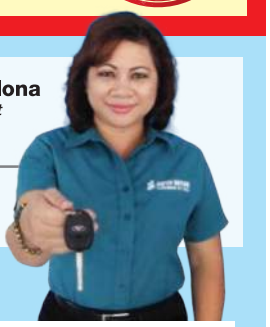

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$14,995

2015 Kia Forte EX
Stk# F5398749
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3865
Color: Metal Stream
$15,895

2012 Hyundai Tuscon GLS AWD
Stk# CU527659
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 23620
Color: Mercury Blue
$15,995

2016 Kia Sportage LX
Stk# G7855268
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 6677
Color: Silver
$19,795

2014 Ford Escape SE
Stk#EUB67717
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 1.6 Liter Ecoboost
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 12644
Color: Ruby Red
$19,995

2016 Kia Sportage EX
Stk# G7840712
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 19778
Color: Black
$21,795

2017 Kia Sportage LX
Stk# H71962822
Drivetrain: AWD
Engine: 2.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 3787
Color: Clear White
$22,995

2013 Nissan Maxima SV Sport
Stk# DC816012
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 20568
Color: Brilliant Silver
$24,995

2014 Nissan Murano SL
Stk# EW411794
Drivetrain: FWD
Engine: 3.5 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 26886
Color: Gun Metallic
$24,995

2010 Ford F150 SVT Raptor
Stk# AFD47403
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.4 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 37860
Color: Molten Orange
$36,995

2016 Ford F150 Super Crew Cab XL
Stk#GKD66328
Drivetrain: 4WD
Engine: 5.0 Liter V8
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 8477
Color: Oxford White
$42,995

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OIA gives CNMI $181,048 to fight rhino beetle

The Office of Insular Affairs has awarded the Commonwealth $181,048 to help it fight the scourge of coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation on Rota.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres made the announcement yesterday, in coordination with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the CNMI Office of Grants Management.

In early October, DLNR discovered the presence of 20 adult rhinoceros beetles, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, and multiple grubs on Rota when a coconut tree fell to the ground at the Tweksberry Beach Park, southwest of the West Marina on Rota. The specimens were collected and sent to Guam for professional review, with a notification sent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Larvae of the coconut rhinoceros beetle are collected from a decaying coconut tree on Rota.

Local measures were put in place immediately thereafter, with 14 rhinoceros beetle breeding traps were deployed by DLNR. This coincided with the Division of Agriculture, CNMI Forestry, CNMI Quarantine conducting an islandwide assessment to prevent further spreading. As a result, 30 coconut trees on Rota were flagged for rhino beetle habitation.

Upon learning of the rhino beetle outbreak on Rota, Torres noted that OGM and DLNR began the grant application immediately in order to address the issue.

"As soon as we heard of the situation, we immediately worked on the grant narrative and proposal with DLNR even while on official travel status," OGM administrator Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr. said.

"We collaborated with the DLNR secretary, Invasive Species coordinator, and the resident director of DLNR-Rota and immediately submitted the grant proposal the next day. We understood and learned from our sister island of Guam that this threat should not be treated lightly; the matter had to be systematically controlled," Cabrera added.

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente said that DLNR acted quickly and reached out to all parties involved.

"We sought funding assistance from the [OIA], who quickly jumped on the ball and hashed out much of their concerned details with the proposal and in two weeks, we received the great news. This news comes at an opportune time as Rota officials were concerned with the lack of supplies and equipment to continue their eradication and detection operations. Now is time to proceed with our plan of action with the governor's direction," Benavente added.

While in Washington, D.C. for meetings with the White House and other federal departments, Torres met with Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Douglas W. Domenech to emphasize the need for expedited funding to address the rhinoceros beetle problem on Rota.

"The rhino beetle problem was one of my main priorities in D.C. We underscored the needs of the people of Rota and the importance of Rota's economy, which is primarily based on agriculture. The rhino beetle is an invasive species, a big problem for the Pacific Islands in general. It damages and kills coconut trees, which are vital for the people of Rota and its local economy. I thank…Domenech and OIA for their support. I also commend OGM, DLNR, Forestry, Quarantine, Agriculture, and the staff in Rota for their work," Torres said.

The money OIA released to the CNMI would be used for rhino beetle detection, eradication, and preventative measures. ***(PR)***

TSL Foundation awards $10K scholarships to NMC students

To emphasize its commitment to expanding higher education opportunities for CNMI students, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently awarded $10,000 to Northern Marianas College students who are pursuing their college degrees.

The award was made as part of the TSL Foundation's Scholarship Program, which has been awarding $10,000 to NMC students annually for 10 years.

From a highly competitive selection process, the following NMC students were selected to receive $1,000 each this year: Jullianne C. Bigueras, Elaine M. Enriquez, Brianna C. Hunter, Chrystalle S. Lloren, Renee J. Manibusan, Thomas A. Rabago, Kaila F. Rubio, Dawn S. Sablan, Michael T. Santos, and Nathaniel T. Snodgrass.

The students are pursuing their degrees in Education, Liberal Arts, Hospitality Management, Rehabilitation and Human Services, and Accounting.

"For more than 30 years residents have been looking to the Northern Marianas College for their professional and personal growth, " said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan. " We are glad that we are able to assist many of these students by providing the TSL Foundation scholarship. We will continue to support NMC and its students in every way we can."

"We are extremely grateful for the continuous support from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for providing this scholarship for the 10th time this year," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "The college has a strong partnership with TanHoldings and the Tan family, and we look forward to working with them as NMC continuously works to ensure we can provide and expand the academic opportunities for our students."

The Tan Holdings Foundation was formed in 2002 and was renamed after the company's founder and chairman, Dr. Tan Siu Lin. Through the years, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation has launched initiatives and built trusted partnerships with a diverse array of individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. The TSL Foundation's main mission is to better serve the regions where it operates to make such communities a better place to live.

The scholarships are based on merit and are awarded on the basis of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, and letters of recommendation. The written essay also plays a key role in the final selection of scholarship recipients.

The selection committee was composed of representatives from Tan Siu Lin Foundation and Northern Marianas College. ***(NMC)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ten Northern Marianas College students are awarded the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship. Also in photo are NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, standing third from left, and executive vice president of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Jerry Tan, standing third from right, together with TSL Foundation scholarship recipients.

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Bill redefines stalking, strangulation as felonies

By ERWIN ENCINARES
REPORTER

The Commonwealth law against domestic violence is getting a second look at the Legislature.

House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) believes the justice system's response to domestic violence in the CNMI must be improved.

In particular, Demapan, who authored House Bill 20-14, wants stricter laws against strangulation and stalking.

Saipan Tribune archives show 11 stories related to domestic violence from August 2017 to October 2017 alone.

Strangulation, which is deemed by HB 20-14 one of the most lethal forms of domestic violence, is currently only charged as a form of battery, in which the penalties are "not sufficient to reflect the severity of this offense," according to Demapan's bill, which passed the Senate unanimously during a session last week.

Threats and intimidation, the two weapons perpetrators of domestic violence use to prevent victims from testifying in court against them, should not be rewarded, the bill added.

HB 20-14 would punish domestic violence perpetrators who opt to use strangulation as their weapon of choice with a prison sentence of up to seven years.

The defendant need not necessarily intend to "injure or kill the victim."

"The only intent required is the intent to strangle or attempt to strangle," the bill states, after redefining strangulation as a felony instead of a battery offense.

Stalking is also being revisited. According to HB 20-14, stalking is purposefully engaging in two or more acts that would cause a person to fear for his or her safety or cause him or her to suffer emotional distress.

It is not enough to say that the stalker did not mean to scare the victim. "…It shall not be a defense that the [stalker] was not given actual notice that the course of conduct was unwanted or the actor did not intend to cause the victim fear or other emotional distress," states part of the bill.

HB 20-14 defines stalking in the first degree as anyone who does the previously mentioned and violates any order prohibiting contact with the victim; or if the defendant was convicted of stalking any person within the previous 10 years; or if the defendant used force or a weapon or threatened to use such; or if the victim is a minor.

Stalking in the second degree is recognized if the defendant did not violate any of the mentioned violations but meets the definition of stalking.

Stalking in the first degree is a felony punishable by imprisonment of up to four years, by a fine of up to $2,000, or both. Stalking in the second degree is a felony punishable by up to one year of imprisonment, by a fine of up to $1,000, or both.

H.B. 20-14 now heads to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for enactment.

Manta Ray Battalion undergoes an inspection

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion undergoes an inspection.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Battalion underwent an inspection for the JROTC Program of Accreditation In-Ranks Inspection and Color Guard last Oct. 26, 2017.

U.S Army recruiters SFC Rivero and SFC Cortez, along with CNMI's MSU JROTC SFC Crolla, inspected the Manta Ray Battalion.

The Manta Ray Battalion accumulated a percentage of 96 percent for In-Ranks Inspection and a 100 percent for the color guard.

This inspection was JPA Part 1

JPA Part 2 will be conducted on Dec. 6, 2017, by the 8th Brigade headquarters from Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington.

Part 2 consists of battalion staff continuous improvement briefing & interview; service learning briefing; cadet portfolio & interview; unit report; and instructor portfolio & interview. ***(PR)***

The CNMI's MSU JROTC SFC Crolla inspects HQ and Alpha Company for JPA In-Ranks Inspection.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S Army recruiter SFC Rivero evaluates the Manta Ray Battalion's Color-Guard. In command is former battalion commander cadet LTC Matthew Kapileo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S Army recruiter SFC Rivero inspects the Bravo Company for JPA In-Ranks Inspection.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S Army recruiter SFC Cortez inspects the Charlie Company for JPA In-Ranks Inspection.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy fourth birthday to our little "Master Of Disaster," Caleb Jaxx A. Mendiola! One flickering candle, one birthday cake, one little smile, one sweet face, one handsome boy, one special day, one loving wish coming your way.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

44 lbs of prescription meds collected in NMI

Shawn N. Anderson, the acting U.S. attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, together with Drug Enforcement Administration resident agent-in-charge Edward Talbot, would like to thank everyone who participated in the 14th National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, which was held last Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017.

Guam collected 452 lbs of prescription medication and the CNMI collected 44 lbs.

The biannual event was held in Guam and on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and was also held at thousands of collection sites around the country. The event is an effort to rid homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs.

Contact DEA special agent Dave Stubbs at (671) 472-7384 regarding any questions about prescription drug abuse and/or any concerns regarding drug related activity on Guam or in the NMI.

For more information, go to www.dea.gov, www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com, or www.justthinktwice.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the Guam site in the Agana Shopping Center were Monty McDowell of the Guam Chamber of Commerce; Kirk Williamson, special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Sgt. Corina Andre with the Guam Army National Guard.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MVA membership meeting on Nov. 9

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on Nov. 9, 2017, at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

Guest speakers will be from the MVA's offshore offices and will provide a recap of fiscal year 2017 projects and the MVA's marketing plans for fiscal year 2018.

Speakers will be the respective in-country managers: Irene Lee, Korea market; Shirley Zhang, China market; and Takashi Ichikura, Japan market.

The meeting cost is $16/person for MVA members and $20/person for non-members. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. RSVP should be made by Nov. 3, 2017.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is $100 annually. To RSVP, to request a membership application, or for more information, contact MVA Community Projects administrative assistant Demalynn Pagarao at dpagarao@mymarianas.com or call 664-3200. ***(MVA)***

JIL Church Saipan to mark 20th anniversary

The CNMI community is invited to attend the Jesus is Lord Church Saipan's 20th anniversary celebration on Nov. 5, 3pm at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. The JIL Church Saipan congregation hosts its members at their sanctuary in San Vicente. There are three services available every Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, and 6pm. For more information, call 670-235-8053 or 670-989-8053. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

A U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

CNMI Next Top Chef competition

The CNMI Next Top Chef 2017 invites interested chefs to register for the competition on Nov. 9, 2017, at 6pm at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Tickets are now on sale for $50/person including the live cooking competition, full buffet dinner, and raffle. For a chef entry form or tickets, contact Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation at 235-2340 or emptyvesselministry@gmail.com. Jointly organized with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the event will benefit the Empty Vessel Ministry. ***(PR)***

Limited tickets for 'Ultimate Drag Queen' on Nov. 4

In celebration of their 25th year anniversary in the CNMI, the Saipan Fil-American Lions Club will a host a fundraiser called "The Ultimate Drag Queen 2017" on Nov. 4, at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort. VIP tickets cost $25 and general admission is $15. Proceeds from the event will be used for the club's community projects. For more details, call club president Annamae Adaza at 285-4388, vice president Lourdes Ortiz at 785-2306, VP Leony Mendoza at 287-7563, secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, or Ernie Molina at 789-8212. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

The next CNMI Marriage Encounter Weekend will take place at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan on Nov. 17-19 2017. It is open to husband and wife couples of all denominations and mixed faiths. There is a non-refundable application fee of $100. If couples are unable to fund the $100, M.E. will find sponsors to pay the fee. To participate, email cnmime@gmail.com or call Joe and Linda Muña at 287-2102. Space is limited to the first 15 couples only. ***(PR)***

PH consulate to hold NMI outreach

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, will conduct a mobile consular outreach in the CNMI from Nov. 13 to 17, 2017 (Monday to Friday) at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, from 9am to 6pm. Those who wish to renew their passport, submit your application at the Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor (top of the Mini-Mart Store), Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm, break time). For any inquiry about passport renewal. call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

Renewed PH passports now being released

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam, in coordination with the Office of Honorary Consul Eli Arago, is releasing passports to those who renewed their passports last Sept. 8, 9, 10, and 11, 2017. You can pick up your new passports at Finasisu Terraces, Apartment Building D, second floor, at the top of the Mini-Mart Store, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm (12pm to 1pm is break time). Please bring your old passport and receipt. For more details, call Mel Santos at 233-6293. ***(PR)***

'Cash for College' workshop on Nov. 18

Northern Marianas College will be hosting a free "Cash for College" workshop that is aimed at assisting students and their parents in maximizing scholarship opportunities that are available to students who are pursuing a college degree.

The free workshop will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, at the NMC As Terlaje campus in Building A. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 12pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, and the CNMI Scholarship.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process.

It is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2015 and 2016 1040, copy of 2015 and 2016 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Lower Base, P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

SMILING COVE MARINA TRANSIENT DOCK PUBLIC MEETING

This is to inform the public and all Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock users, that there will be a meeting open to the public, at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater on Wednesday, November 01, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to allow for questions and answers related to the new process at the Smiling Cove Marina Transient Dock. – described in the Public Notice below.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all boat operators using the Smiling Cove Marina convenient dock for loading and unloading commercial passengers that effective immediately, the convenient dock will no longer be used for any commercial activities including loading and unloading commercial passengers.

The transient dock will be the only place allow for loading and unloading of commercial passengers. Furthermore no commercial activities in any other areas of the Smiling Cove Marina.

Failure to comply with this public notice may result in prohibiting you and your company from using the Smiling Cove Marina facility. Your cooperation and attention is greatly appreciated.

/s/
Manuel M. Pangelinan
Director, DFW

/s/
Anthony T. Benavente
Secretary, DLNR

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Manafort indictment shows company Trump keeps

President Donald Trump is right: Most of the accusations against Paul Manafort in the indictment that Special Counsel Robert Mueller brought Monday morning relate to activities from long before he became the Trump campaign manager in the spring of 2016. The word "Trump" doesn't appear anywhere in the 31-page document, and the only Russian influence it mentions relates to politics in Ukraine, not the United States.

Still, the public won't be so quick to dismiss this development as "fake news" and evidence of a Democratic witch hunt, as President Trump claimed repeatedly over the weekend and immediately after Manafort and his associate, Rick Gates, were taken into federal custody. Nor should they. This isn't the sort of fishing-expedition indictment that has sometimes given independent investigations like Mueller's a bad name. It isn't related to perjury or obstruction of justice but rather accusations of money laundering, tax evasion, fraud and foreign lobbying. The indictment is detailed _ down to how much Mr. Manafort allegedly funneled from his offshore accounts to pay for men's clothes in New York ($849,215) or antique rugs in Alexandria ($934,350, plus another $100,000 to a related company). And it suggests that its accusations are backed up by documents _ financial records, emails and memos.

There's rampant speculation that Mueller focused so intently on Manafort in hopes that a strong indictment against him would get him to turn on others in the Trump orbit and provide evidence of crimes related to the central mission of his office, which is to determine whether the Trump campaign engaged in illegal collusion with Russia to influence the presidential election.

Trump's lawyer asserted last week that the president wasn't worried about that possibility because there's nothing for Manafort or anyone else to tell. Perhaps not, but Mueller's mandate calls for him to investigate any potentially illegal activity he uncovers as a result of his probe, and that's what he's done. The investigation is only a few months old and is clearly not yet complete _ Mueller reportedly has more interviews scheduled and is waiting for more documents from the White House.

But even if we suppose that this marks the most serious turn this investigation will ever take, that Manafort and Gates have no beans to spill, it still reflects poorly on President Trump. Manafort was brought on to the Trump campaign in the spring of 2016 when it appeared possible that the candidate could be headed for a contested convention. Manafort had extensive experience in that area, having worked for Gerald Ford in 1976, and subsequently for other Republican nominees, but his ties to the pro-Russia regime of former Ukrainian President Viktor F. Yanukovych were hardly a secret; they showed up in the very first New York Times blog post about his hiring. (He

See MANAFORT on Next Page

Federal dereliction in Puerto Rico

By JESSE JACKSON
Tribune News Service

You can write to the Rev. Jesse Jackson in care of this newspaper or by email at jjackson@rainbowpush.org. Follow him on Twitter @RevJJackson.

The scandals around in Puerto Rico's agonies are far greater than the bizarre contract to pay Whitefish Energy, a tiny Montana company from U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown, $300 million to restore electric lines.

Puerto Rico still lacks water, food and electricity. Ninety-eight schools just opened, but that represents less than 10 percent of the nation's schools. And those opened have no generators for electricity, no air conditioning and no internet access. Students must bring their own water bottles and douse themselves with repellent to fend off the mosquito invasion that plagues the island.

The failure of the U.S. government to meet the emergency has gotten some attention, even as Trump keeps claiming that the administration deserves an "A" for its efforts.

Far too little attention has been given to the context for this crisis.

Central to the crisis is catastrophic climate change: the effects of global warming that pose, as the Pentagon has concluded, a real and growing national security threat, particularly to islands like Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, both territories of the U.S. The Trump administration, however, remains in denial about climate change and is systematically rolling back all of the initial steps that the Obama administration made to even begin to address it.

Puerto Ricans are suffering from the administration's inadequate response to a catastrophe. All of us _ and our children _ are likely to pay the price of the administration's ignorant denial of a real security threat.

Puerto Ricans also suffer from a lack of rights. They are American citizens without the right to vote. They have one non-voting resident commissioner in the House of Representatives. If Puerto Rico were a state, it would have two senators and five representatives in the House. Such representation would surely win Puerto Ricans a fairer hearing in Washington.

Puerto Rico is defined as a territory, but it is treated as a colony. Its people are U.S. citizens, but they are viewed as foreigners. That reality and the contempt that many in the Congress have for the U.S. possession handicap Puerto Rico in this catastrophe and in the future.

Worse, Puerto Rican leaders are hamstrung by the island's massive debts, and by the outside control board designed to force a harsh austerity on the island in order to insure that the speculators get repaid first. The catastrophe has brought Puerto Rico's economy to a halt. Surely its creditors should write off much of their loans that have gone bad. U.S. assistance to rebuild Puerto Rico cannot be siphoned off to repay the debts of the past if the island is to have any hope of revival.

Without representation, the 3.4 million people in Puerto Rico must depend on the kindness of their fellow citizens. Perhaps Puerto Ricans who have settled in the U.S. mainland can mobilize to demand fair treatment for their compatriots. Perhaps their U.S. occupiers will understand the global shame that comes from failing our own citizens. With Republicans intent on passing $5 trillion in tax cuts, largely for the rich and the big corporations, while slashing spending on everything other than the military, the agonies of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are likely to continue.

Some small steps should be taken. Puerto Ricans should have the first option on the contracts and jobs involved in rebuilding the island. The reconstruction needs labor, skilled and unskilled; the residents need jobs. If they get the contracts, the money will circulate in the island rather than be sent to the mainland. If there is a shortage of skilled occupations, investment in training and apprenticeships will pay massive dividends.

Puerto Rican officials need to step up also, insuring that the contracting process is transparent and clean _ and cracking down on inanities like the Whitefish contract, which the governor has announced will be canceled. Disasters often open the door for massive rip-offs and fraud.

The Trump administration is systematically weakening enforcement of the laws and regulations on companies and bankers. Puerto Rican officials will have to be courageous enough to set the standards and enforce them. I am convinced that the steadfast leadership of Gov. Dr. Ricardo Rossello and the Maxine Waters-like spirit of Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz of San Juan, along with the diligence of responsible members of Congress such as Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois, will make for a new, better and more powerful Puerto Rico.

The devastation in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, raises a stark mirror on this administration. How can any president claim to Make America Great Again and then fail in the basic duty to protect this country's citizens and help them recover from natural disasters? That question should haunt the president and the Republican leaders this Halloween, even as they peddle the next tax break for millionaires and billionaires.

Burukan Hegsu` I Deni`

Diariu, oppan burukan hegsu` I Deni` piot chaleg tuyan pot mahatsa sueddun niha 80 pot sientu. Mayotte siñku pot sientu guatu gi empleau sibit para tane`. Che`chu` gulosu!

Tinatiye este ni mahatsan apas hospitat mas ke 50 pot sientu. Lastima i siñku pot sientu na puge. Man-mahogse dopble familian empleau siha mas te`ug na sapet!

Debi mohon u fan sattun pumuta` ni espadan konsensian niha entalu` espiritu yan ante haf` propiu para i linahyan. Lau mampos man-diskuidau nu i ha`anen publiku. Guaha lehitimu `sino likidu puntu sineda` miyu na in` lañgag pumega mas sapet kontra i tautau-ta?

Sinsiyu: Gaige gaseta na i masosogne kumu Acting Gov. as Biktot Hokog ha fitma asuntun bingo. Buenu! Lau hana` chalegyu` i para uma-imbelekeruye sinsiyun man-biha! Fañgetu ya in` setta i man-amku` gi ha sosoda` na ginefsagan niha man-hugandu. Dalai na achog sinsiyun manbiha para in` embelekeruye?

Kutbata: Guaha `nai hu konsidera kau debi tafan kinetbatan Sears Roebuck para tafan ma-atan kumu parehu tautau. Maputa` i komunida entalu riku yan popble`! Dispues, haf` na pagpag butkan `nai kumahulu` apas hospitat. Lau ni unu kumestiona este na asuntu. Na ti sapet mas este para i tautau gi señgsoñg?

Mesklau: Eku ginen chagu` hogsu` `nos kuantos biahe hu huñgog. Mesklau na mensahe mafattu: magof yan triste. I mefe`na libianu bai` safe gi un` banda. I tatatte gumu`ot attension-hu pot kulan ti chagu` siempre ha palo`pu` hit.

I magof na eku kau guiya i finattun ha`anen gupot siha ni matutuhun desde Thanksgiving Day. Enfin guaha lokue` na hana` fan chatsaga hit piot `nai guaha gi familia madispone antes de ha`anen gupot siha. Makat na pinadesi!

Sessu teñga hu akanteha haf` i triste na patte guihe na eku. Hu tatiye taduñg gi silensiun pisun konsensiag-hu para bai` ilau haf` mohon guaha. Ti anog lau huñgan guaha tasyan oriyan tanu`. Ti klaru pot mampos asgon! Lau mamamaila` ennau na birak triniste!

Offisiu: I guaguat (discipline) offisiun mañgge` ya hululu` i para un` soda haf` i faktu piot ya tineteka i linahyan. Sin ditension debi un` prepara sin opiñion haf` enfin i faktu gi haf` masusede. Sotta ya i mananaita u dinisidi haf` sessu gaige gi hinassoña.

Dispues de faktu na ripot guaha na asuntu un` chule` pot para un` guadog yan estudiaye gi halum katma na attura. Haf` un` lagnos uma`udai gi hilu` faktu. Siñaha` guaha opiñion-mu `nai mas debi un` eksisia menhalom na pisun rason gi presentasion-mu.

Siñaha` ti umafagcha` hinassota. Gi hilu` ennau, mauleg un` respuesta haf` matuge` kosake u guaha presentasion gi hilu` homlu` na inatuñgu`. Siña ha` offisioghu mañgge` lau kontodu guahu hu agradese opiñion i tautau-ta siha gi todu asuntun linahyan. Hana`e hit este na attura dumeskute dibuenamente asuntu siha ni debi ta ketuñgu` kumu membron komunidan iya Marianas.

Atan i asuntu ya un` presenta haf` hinassomu. Muñga makritisisa petsonat i prohimu-mu. Saga ya un` rason gi hilu` faktu yan sa` hafa na difirensiau hinasso-mu.

Finapos: I pañgpañg napun ha`anita un` klase ennau na disposision ni tatnai matulaika. Parehu yan kinahulu` atdau gi sanhaya ni machum gi sanlagu. Ni un` biahe `nai atlibes fina`pus este na disposision ginen hilu`.

Gi inamko`ta, piot desde idat 70-90, maliñgu hagas fuetsan kanaita, tinatiye ni kalun tomu, yan appenas ganas gi sentada-ta. Adumididi` ta bira hit tatte gi estau neni. Para mona puru assistimientu. Ni unu u soplu ginen este na pañgpañg napu!

Peskadot: Hu li`e un` hobensitu yan pachiñko gi apaga`nã ginen Inai Dañkulu. Kase mañgone` hombre gai sinahguan fina` kostat gi sinturaña.

Hana` banidosu-yu` i animon ayu na hobensitu. Esta ti u ñalañg fina totche sa` siña pumeska para i lamasan sena. Hasan tali`e na tiempu umoffisiona peskan tasi. I tiniñgu` ayu na hobensitu siempre ha prekura pumasa guatu gi famaguoña.

Este na offisiu yan fangualu`an tradision natibu desde antigu na tiempu. Esta pa`gu benefisiosu na patte gi ha`anita. Chage man-mananum maseha gi tatten `sino oriyan guma desde fina` golai, fruta yan sombra petmanente tat kumu troñkun niyog. Bira birada hagu ha` mismu para un` benefisia i sakrifisiomu maseha gi hilu` tane`.

Pot Chaleg: Sige hagahu nieta ha chogue estudiuña (homework) gi finu` Chamorro. Guaha siha kuestion ha faisen-yu` pot definasion sentensia desde Chamorro esta`i finu` Eñglish. Hu oppe dibuenamente. Dispues de monhayan ilegña, "Nañga grandpa ya bai komun". Era para una setbe i kemun. Ai na chaleg. Lastima i animun mame!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

'Home care and hospice deliver freedom'

By MARIANAS HEALTH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

That is the theme that our acting governor and the National Association for Home Care and Hospice have designated for the 2017 Home Care and Hospice Month being celebrated this November.

In the proclamation for this special cause, signed this past Oct. 24, 2017, everyone is encouraged to honor and recognize the dedicated and heroic people who work behind the scenes, promoting good health and providing life-sustaining care to individuals in the places where they are most comfortable, their homes. In the CNMI, these men and women—nurses, physical therapists, home health aides and social workers—make a positive difference for the patients and families they serve each day by continuing their health care in homes across the island. They utilize their education and skills tirelessly to do what is best for their patients so that they may have the best possible quality of life.

But what exactly is home health care and when would it be used? Per the Medicare.gov website, "Home health care is a wide range of health care services that can be given in your home for an illness or injury." The site also indicates that this care is "usually less expensive, more convenient, and just as effective as care you get in a hospital…"

When a patient is newly discharged from the hospital, sometimes they still require continued medical attention such as I.V. therapy, wound care after surgery, or education when diagnosed with a new medical condition. In some cases, this care can be executed by providers other than physicians and in locations other than hospitals or clinics. Or, perhaps during a routine medical checkup, a physician finds this type of medical care necessary and observes that it is a hardship for the patient to continuously return to the hospital/clinic for services. In these cases, physicians can order for this necessary, continued health care to be provided by nurses, physical therapists, home health aides, and social workers. While these services can mostly be provided by the hospital and clinics throughout the island, some patients experience extreme hardship in traveling from their homes to these facilities, perhaps due to mobility issues. This is when home care and hospice providers can come in to provide holistic health care in the home.

One might think that home health providers simply go into the homes and provide the physician-ordered medical care needed and then leave. However, they do more than medically-related procedures. They do environmental safety assessments and patient and caregiver education, teaching about medical conditions, medications (what they are for, how they work, side effects, and when to take them), safety (especially for patients with conditions which make them prone to accidents), coping skills and special diets, just to name a few. Home health care providers listen to the needs and concerns of their patients and their caregivers. When necessary, they help them to meet their social needs, whenever possible, by providing assistance through community resource planning. But most importantly, home health care providers work with patients and caregivers to develop and meet health goals step by step, helping them to achieve the best quality of life possible given their health situations.

Please stay tuned for additional articles to learn more about home health care and hospice in this newspaper during the month of November. Also, please take advantage of a free health screening to be held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017 from 7am to 9am at the Sabalu Market in Susupe.

https://www.medicare.gov/what-medicare-covers/home-health-care/home-health-care-what-is-it-what-to-expect.html

https://www.nahc.org/consumers-information/november-is-home-care-hospice-month-new/

https://www.nahc.org/consumers-information/november-is-home-care-hospice-month/

MANAFORT

From Page 10

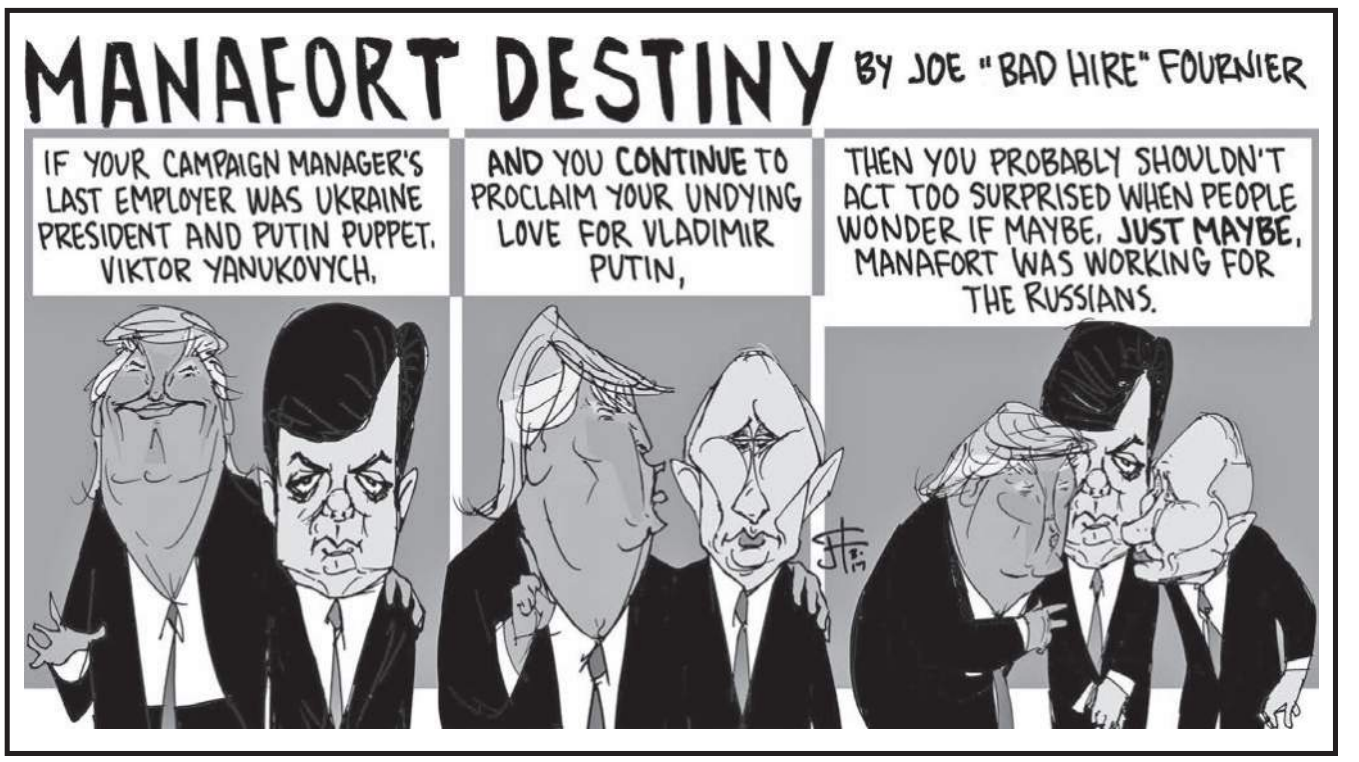
had also worked for other unsavory international characters, including Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Mobutu Sese Seko of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo; the Daily Beast headlined an article at the time of his hiring by the campaign "Top Trump Aide Led the 'Torturers' Lobby'" detailing his work with another top Trump adviser, Roger Stone.)

The five months or so that he ran the Trump campaign are the crucial ones in the question of possible Russia collusion. Other court documents unsealed Monday detail contacts around the time of Manafort's hiring between another Trump campaign adviser, George Papadopoulos, and a Russian professor connected to the Kremlin who offered up thousands of emails from the Russian government containing "dirt" on Hillary Clinton. In the summer of 2016, Manafort was part of an infamous meeting between Donald Trump Jr., Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and others with a Russian attorney who had connections to the Putin regime and also promised damaging information about Clinton.

None of that makes Trump guilty of any crimes, of course. But it does, at the very least, show that the president gave little consideration to the background, baggage and possible motivations of those who surround him _ a fact that has become clear again and again in the months since Manafort left the campaign. And Trump's continued inability to see Mueller's probe as anything but excuse-making by Democrats over Clinton's loss shows just how wantonly blind he is to possible corruption in his midst.

This indictment offers no hint that Trump did anything wrong. But it is one piece in a mountain of evidence that he's a terrible judge of character.

(c)2017 *The Baltimore Sun*


MANAFORT DESTINY
BY JOE "BAD HIRE" FOURNIER
IF YOUR CAMPAIGN MANAGER'S LAST EMPLOYER WAS UKRAINE PRESIDENT AND PUTIN PUPPET, VIKTOR YANUKOVYCH,
AND YOU CONTINUE TO PROCLAIM YOUR UNDYING LOVE FOR VLADIMIR PUTIN,
THEN YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T ACT TOO SURPRISED WHEN PEOPLE WONDER IF MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, MANAFORT WAS WORKING FOR THE RUSSIANS.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

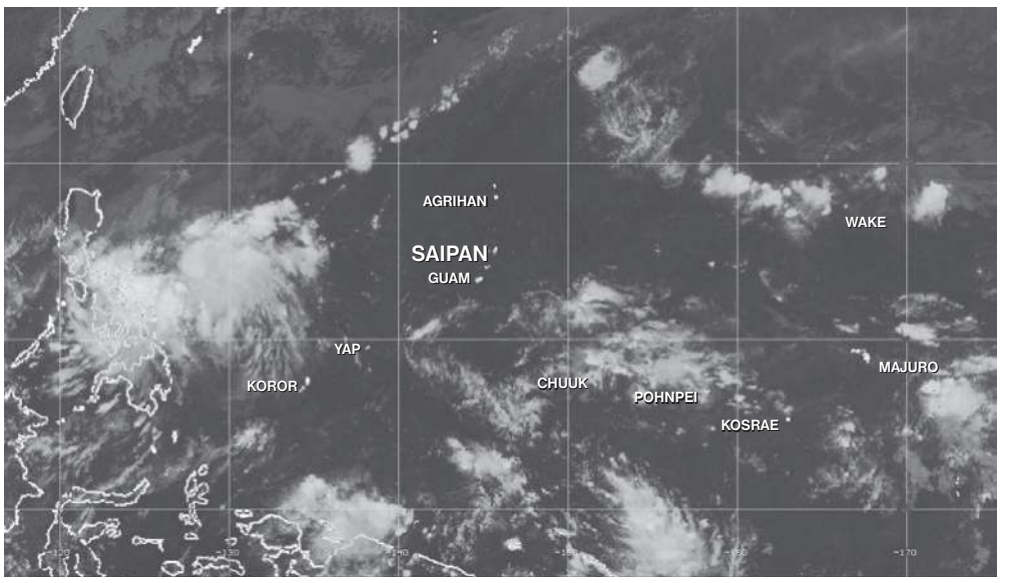
THURSDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.
▲89° ▼78°

FRIDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:30 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A fairly benign pattern will continue across the Marianas over the next few days. A slight increase in instability associated with an upper-level trough and surface trough to the south of Guam will bring increased cloudiness and a slight chance of thunderstorms to the islands tonight through Wednesay night. Otherwise, dry conditions are expected into next weekend. Latest buoy readings show seas have increased slightly to between 3 and 6 feet. An increasing ENE and N swell will result in seas building to between 5 and 7 Wednesday into Thursday. Winds will also increase to moderate to fresh around the same time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 61°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	61° / 36°
Hong Kong	Sunny	82° / 72°
Honolulu	Thunderstorms	85° / 72°
London	Partly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	69° / 56°
Manila	Showers	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Cloudy	61° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	79° / 73°
New York	Mostly Cloudy	56° / 52°
Osaka	Sunny	64° / 48°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	68° / 55°
Rome	Sunny	68° / 45°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 51°
Seoul	Showers	64° / 48°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	68° / 54°
Washington, DC	Cloudy	56° / 51°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
5:01 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.60
11:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.39
5:33 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
12:06 AM	LOW TIDE	0.39

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:13 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:13 AM	5:47 PM
Saturday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:14 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:05 am	3:41 pm
Thursday	-	4:00 am	4:25 pm
Friday	-	4:56 am	5:11 pm
Saturday	-	5:55 am	6:01 pm
Sunday	-	6:55 am	6:53 pm

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:05pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA182/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:50pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

‘Obamacare’ curveball: free insurance in 1,500-plus counties

WASHINGTON (AP)—In an odd twist, low-income people in about half of U.S. counties will now be able to get a taxpayer-subsidized “Obamacare” policy for free, according to a new study that suggests some actions by President Donald Trump against the health law could backfire.

Monday’s analysis of government data by the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation runs counter to the perception of staggering across-the-board increases in costs for consumers under the Affordable Care Act. It could become a springboard for marketing pitches by insurers as they try to sign up more consumers when open enrollment starts Nov. 1.

The study found that in 1,540 counties a hypothetical 40-year-old making $25,000 a year can get a basic “bronze” plan under the ACA next year for zero monthly premium.

It’s partly as a result of administration actions that raised the underlying cost of insurance, leading to higher federal spending for premium subsidies.

AP
The Healthcare.gov website is seen on a computer screen Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017, in Washington.

The final number of counties with available free plans is certain to be higher because the Kaiser study only examined the 39 states using the federal HealthCare.gov website for sign-ups. In those states, nearly 60 percent of counties will have free bronze plans.

“Because of the way that premiums are set this year, people have to shop around to make sure they are getting a plan that makes sense for them,” said Gary Claxton, a co-author of the report. “Telling people that the choice is to pay a penalty (for being uninsured) or take a free plan, is a pretty attractive proposition.”

Separately, the government also released official numbers Monday. The Health and Human Services department said sticker-price premiums are going up 37 percent for a hypothetical young adult buying a type of midrange “silver” plan.

HHS said insurer participation is down, with 29 percent of current “Obamacare” customers having just one carrier next year in their community. And the government noted that subsidies for premiums are also rising - about 45 percent, on average.

The Kaiser study illustrates what’s happening under the hood as the complicated moving parts of the health law’s different subsidies and coverage levels respond to actions by the administration. The president is still vowing to repeal and replace “Obamacare.”

Trump recently shut off government subsidies to insurers for providing lower copays and deductibles to people with modest incomes, citing legal questions about whether those payments were properly approved by Congress.

But insurers have raised premiums, which are also subsidized.

Think of pushing down on one end of a see-saw and the other end goes up.

Because consumers can use their premium subsidy to buy any level of coverage, that money can be enough to cover the full price of a lower-cost bronze plan.

This year consumers in some areas had access to zero-premium bronze plans, but Claxton said for 2018 it will be many more people.

China’s Xi promises reform in event with US business leaders

BEIJING (AP)—President Xi Jinping has promised to open China’s economy wider during a meeting with American business leaders ahead of a visit by U.S. President Donald Trump amid trade tensions.

Xi spoke Monday to members of an advisory board to Beijing’s Tsinghua University business school that included Apple CEO Tim Cook, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Blackstone Group chairman Stephen Schwarzman.

During the event at the Great Hall of the People, the ceremonial seat of China’s government, Xi promised to “introduce a series of initiatives to promote and expand opening up,” the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

A key Communist Party meeting last week elevated Xi to the highest status among Chinese leaders, adding his name to the party constitution alongside those of Mao Zedong, founder of the communist government in 1949, and Deng Xiaoping, who launched economic reforms in 1979.

At the congress, Xi promised more open markets and support for entrepreneurs but also affirmed plans to build up state-owned companies that dominate industries, including banking, energy and telecoms.

The United States and other trading partners are pressing Beijing to give their companies more access to its state-dominated economy. Trump’s administration is investigating whether Beijing improperly pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

Xi said he looked forward to Trump’s visit, according to Xinhua.

“China is willing to work with the United States to jointly promote Sino-American cooperation with mutual care for each other’s interests and concerns and properly resolve differences,” the president was quoted as saying. “We are optimistic about the prospects for Chinese-U.S. relations.”

Still, Xi stressed that national security and sovereignty also were priorities for Beijing.

“China will firmly uphold its own sovereignty, security and development interests at the same time,” he was quoted as saying.

China has steadily tightened controls on internet use and data, prompting complaints by business groups that it is improperly using national security concerns to shield its technology industries from competition.

Tech companies find more signs of Russian election activity

WASHINGTON (AP)—Major tech companies plan to tell Congress Tuesday that they have found additional evidence of Russian activity on their services surrounding the 2016 U.S. election.

Facebook, for instance, says a Russian group posted more than 80,000 times on its service during and after the election, potentially reaching as many as 126 million users. The company plans to disclose these numbers to the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, according to a person familiar with the testimony. The person declined to be named because the committee has not officially released the testimony.

Twitter plans to tell the same committee that it has uncovered and shut down 2,752 accounts linked to the same group, Russia’s Internet Research Agency, which is known for promoting pro-Russian government positions.

That number is nearly 14 times larger than the number of accounts Twitter handed over to congressional committees three weeks ago, according to a person familiar with the matter. This person requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the new findings ahead of the hearing on Tuesday.

And Google announced in a blog post that it found evidence of “limited” misuse of its services by the Russian group, as well as some YouTube channels that were likely backed by Russian agents.

THREE HEARINGS IN TWO DAYS

The companies are set to testify at three hearings Tuesday and Wednesday as part of congressional probes of Russian election interference.

Colin Stretch, Facebook’s general counsel, plans to tell the Judiciary panel that 120 pages set up by the Russian agency posted repeatedly between January 2015 and August 2017. The company estimates that roughly 29 million people were directly “served” posts in their news feeds from the agency over that time. Those posts then spread widely on Facebook, although Stretch’s prepared testimony makes clear that many of the 126 million people reached this way may not have seen the posts.

These “organic” posts that appeared in users’ news feeds are distinct from more than 3,000 advertisements linked to the agency that Facebook has already turned over to congressional committees. The ads — many of which focused on divisive social issues — pointed people to the agency’s pages, where they could then like or share its material.

On Twitter, the Russia-linked accounts put out 1.4 million election-related tweets from September through Nov. 15 last year — nearly half of them automated. The company also found nine Russian accounts that bought ads, most of which came from the state-backed news service Russia Today, or RT.

Twitter said last week it would no longer accept ads from RT and Sputnik, another state-sponsored news outlet. It will donate the $1.9 million it has earned from RT since 2011 to support external research into political uses of Twitter.

Google said that two accounts linked to the Russian group spent $4,700 on ads its platforms during the 2016 election. The company also found 18 YouTube channels likely backed by Russian agents. Those channels hosted 1,108 videos with 43 hours of material, although they racked up just 309,000 views in the U.S. between June 2015 and November 2016, Google said.

PREEMPTING REGULATION

A bill unveiled earlier this month would require social media companies to keep public files of election ads and require companies to “make reasonable efforts” to make sure that foreign individuals or entities are not purchasing political advertisements in order to influence Americans.

The companies haven’t commented on the proposed legislation, but say they’re at work on the problem. Last week Facebook said it will verify political ad buyers in federal elections and build transparency tools to link ads to the Facebook pages of their sponsors. Twitter has also said it will require election-related ads for candidates to disclose who is paying for them and how they are targeted.

Nation

1st guilty plea, indictment of Trump aides in Russia probe

AP

Paul Manafort makes his way through television cameras as he walks from Federal District Court in Washington, Monday, Oct. 30, 2017.

WASHINGTON (AP)—On a black Monday for Donald Trump's White House, the special counsel investigating possible coordination between the Kremlin and the Trump presidential campaign announced the first charges, indicting Trump's former campaign chairman and revealing how an adviser lied to the FBI about meetings with Russian intermediaries.

The formal charges against a total of three people are the first public demonstration that special counsel Robert Mueller and his team believe they have identified criminal conduct. And they send a warning that individuals in the Trump orbit who do not cooperate with Mueller's investigators, or who are believed to mislead them during questioning, could also wind up charged and facing years in prison.

Paul Manafort, who steered Trump's campaign for much of last year, and business associate Rick Gates ended the day under house arrest on charges that they funneled payments through foreign companies and bank accounts as part of their private political work in Ukraine.

George Papadopoulos, also a former campaign adviser, faced further questioning and then sentencing in the first—and so far only—criminal case that links the Trump election effort to the Kremlin.

Manafort and Gates, who pleaded not guilty in federal court, are not charged with any wrongdoing as part of the Trump campaign, and the president immediately sought to distance himself from the allegations. He said on Twitter that the alleged crimes occurred "years ago," and he insisted anew there was "NO COLLUSION" between his campaign and Russia.

But potentially more perilous for the president was the guilty plea by former adviser Papadopoulos, who admitted in newly unsealed court papers that he was told in April 2016 that the Russians had "dirt" on Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails," well before it became public that the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta's emails had been hacked.

Papadopoulos was not charged with having improper communications with Russians but rather with lying to FBI agents when asked about the contacts, suggesting that Mueller—who was appointed in May to lead the Justice Department's investigation—is prepared to indict for false statements even if the underlying conduct he uncovers might not necessarily be criminal.

The developments, including the unexpected unsealing of a guilty plea, usher Mueller's investigation into a new, more serious phase. And the revelations in the guilty plea about an adviser's Russian contacts could complicate the president's assertions that his campaign never coordinated with the Russian government to tip the 2016 presidential election in his favor, the central issue behind Mueller's mandate.

Mueller's investigation has already shadowed the administration for months, with investigators reaching into the White House to demand access to documents and interviews with key current and former officials.

The Papadopoulos plea occurred Oct. 5 but was not unsealed until Monday, creating further woes for an administration that had prepared over the weekend to deflect the Manafort allegations. In court papers, Papadopoulos admitted lying to FBI agents about the nature of his interactions with "foreign nationals" who he thought had close connections to senior Russian government officials.

The court filings don't provide details on the emails or whom Papadopoulos may have told about the Russian government effort.

Papadopoulos has been cooperating with investigators, according to the court papers. His lawyers hinted strongly in a statement Monday that their client has more testimony to provide.

There, too, the White House scrambled to contain the potential fallout, with press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders contending that Papadopoulos' role in the campaign was "extremely limited." She said "any actions that he took would have been on his own."

On stand, Bergdahl apologizes to those hurt looking for him

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP)—In an unexpected and emotional statement, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl apologized in court Monday to all the military personnel who were wounded searching for him and described the daily nightmares and flashbacks to his five years in captivity of Taliban allies he still endures.

Bergdahl was the first witness in what's expected to be a multi-day presentation by the defense to the judge who will decide his punishment for endangering comrades by walking off his post in Afghanistan in 2009. He spoke for two hours, giving a wide-ranging description of his brutal years in captivity and what challenges he still faces with daily life.

"I would like everyone who searched for me to know it was never my intention for anyone to be hurt, and I never expected that to happen," he said, choking up at times. "My words alone can't take away their pain."

Bergdahl faces a maximum of life in prison after pleading guilty to desertion and misbehavior before the enemy.

His appearance on the witness stand, which the defense hadn't publicly made known in advance, served as a dramatic counterpoint to several days of emotionally wrenching testimony by several service members who were seriously wounded during a massive search effort. He described the brutal conditions he faced, including beatings with copper wire and unending bouts of gastrointestinal problems brought on by squalid conditions. He was kept in a cage for four out of the five years after several escape attempts, and his muscles atrophied to the point he could barely stand or walk.

Asked by a defense attorney what the worst part of captivity was, he responded that it wasn't the beatings.

"The worst was the constant, just the constant deterioration of everything. The constant pain from my body falling apart. The constant screams from my mind," he said, haltingly. "It was the years of waiting to see whether or not the next time someone opens the door if that would be the person coming to execute you."

Bergdahl said he still has nightmares that make it hard to sleep more than five hours. He checks his door at least three times to make sure it's secure each night and sleeps with a flashlight nearby.

He wakes up sometimes not remembering that he's back in the U.S., he said, and has daytime flashbacks to captivity arising from unpredictable triggers.

"It could be anything: A smell, perfume, damp earth, garbage," he said.

The 31-year-old soldier from Hailey, Idaho, was brought home by President Barack Obama brought him in 2014 in a swap for five Taliban prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

Because Bergdahl's words in court were an unsworn statement, prosecutors won't be given the chance to cross-examine him.

His dramatic words came after an eventful morning in which the judge ruled that President Donald Trump's scathing criticism Bergdahl won't prevent the soldier from receiving a fair sentence.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: 1 dead after shooting near University of Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Police say one person is dead after a shooting near the University of Utah campus Monday night. The Deseret News reports that the university sent an alert at 9 p.m. to students and staff to shelter in place. People on campus remained on lockdown hours later. Salt Lake City police posted on Twitter officers are searching nearby Red Butte Canyon for 24-year-old Austin Boutain, who is suspected in the shooting. He is considered armed and dangerous. At least eight law enforcement agencies are on scene, including the FBI. A helicopter was assisting the search. Salt Lake City Police Sgt. Brandon Shearer said officers weren't immediately releasing the victim's gender or other details. Utah Transit Authority says there will be limited light rail service and that buses won't service the campus for the reminder of the night.

Third employee dies in attempted N. Carolina prison escape

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C. (AP)—Officials say a North Carolina correctional officer has died from injuries she suffered during a deadly inmate escape attempt. Forty-nine-year-old Correctional officer Wendy Shannon died Monday and is the third person killed in the Oct. 12 incident at Pasquotank Correctional Institution. Department of Public Safety Secretary Erik A. Hooks said in a statement, "Our hearts are broken at the passing of Officer Shannon." Shannon had worked as a correctional officer at Pasquotank since 2013. Thirty-five-year-old Correctional officer Justin Smith and 50-year-old Correction Enterprises manager Veronica Darden were killed and eight other prison workers were injured in the incident. Four inmates face murder charges. Pasquotank County Sheriff Randy Cartwright has said the inmates set a fire inside a sewing plant to divert guards and apparently planned to climb over prison fences.

Shelter director resigns after dogs escape euthanasia order

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP)—The executive director of a shelter in Maine where two pit bulls disappeared after being ordered euthanized has resigned. Lisa Smith resigned two days after the dogs went missing from the Humane Society Waterville Area. The Maine Supreme Judicial Court upheld an order on Oct. 24 that the dogs should be put down after killing a Boston terrier and seriously injuring its owner. The owner of the pit bulls took them out of the shelter that afternoon for a walk, and then reported that they had escaped. Winslow Police Chief Shawn O'Leary says he believes the disappearance was the result of a coordinated effort to save the dogs. Smith says the shelter was "deceived" about the missing dogs.

Asia

Injunction sought as Australian refugee camp closure looms

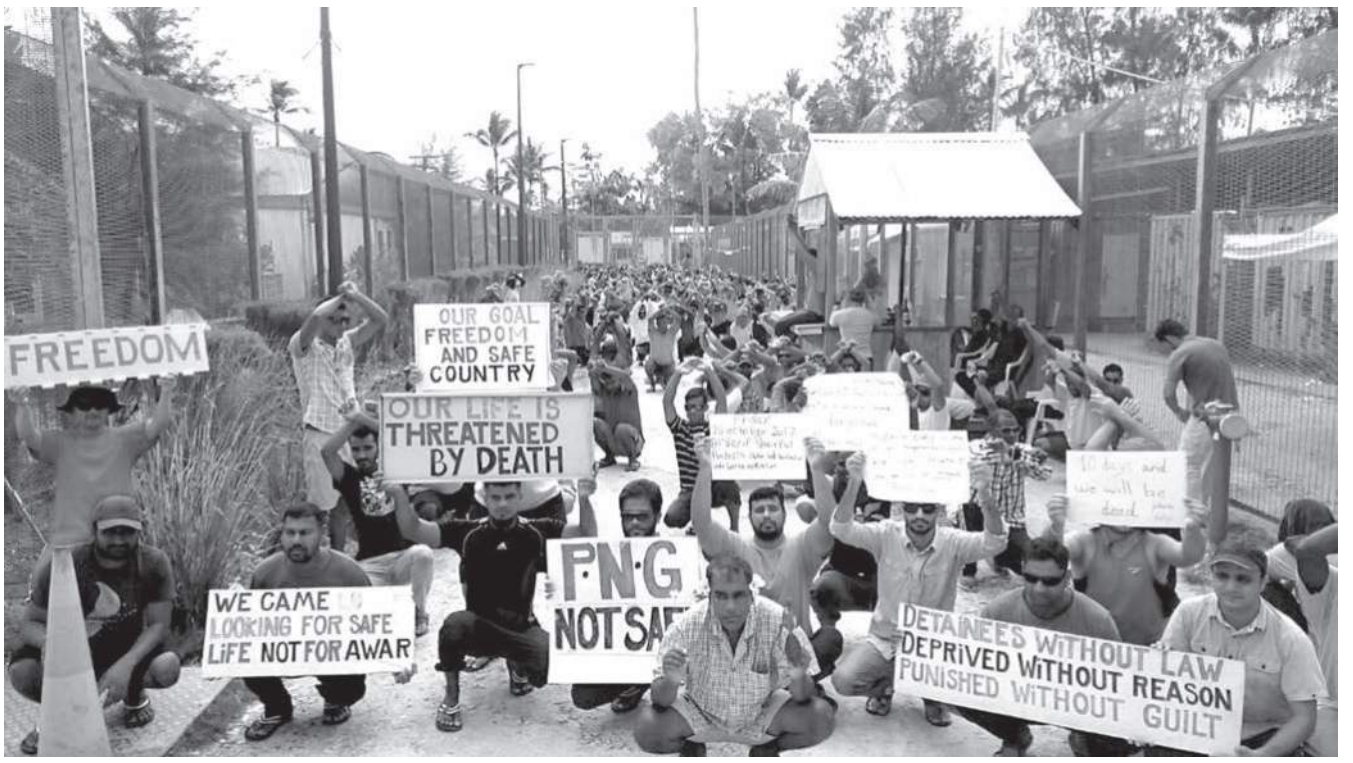
SYDNEY (AP)—Lawyers for the asylum seekers living at Australia's detention center on Papua New Guinea's Manus Island sought a court injunction to keep the facility open Tuesday, as fears mounted of violence amid reports of looting and rock-throwing by local residents.

Papua New Guinea authorities plan to cut off water, electricity and food supplies to the center inside the Lombrun Navy Base at 5 p.m. Tuesday. The closing date was set after Papua New Guinea's Supreme Court ruled last year that Australia's detention of asylum seekers there was illegal and unconstitutional.

The 606 men—diverted by Australian authorities to Manus after attempting to reach Australia by boat—refuse to comply with an order to relocate to three nearby facilities because they say the alternatives are less secure and they fear for their safety amid threats of violence from locals.

With the center left unguarded as of Tuesday morning, reports emerged of locals, some armed with machetes, looting the facility.

Sudanese refugee Abdul Mohammad said asylum seekers and refugees feared for their lives. "Some of the locals have come inside and are stealing boxes, fire alarms, the fans, some of them are taking the air-conditioners," he said by phone from Manus Island.


FREEDOM
OUR GOAL FREEDOM AND SAFE COUNTRY
OUR LIFE IS THREATENED BY DEATH
WE CAME LOOKING FOR SAFE LIFE NOT FOR AWAR
P·N·G NOT SAF
DETAINEES WITHOUT LAW
DEPRIVED WITHOUT REASON
PUNISHED WITHOUT GUILT

AP

In this undated photo released by Refugee Action Coalition, refugees and asylum seekers hold up banners during a protest at the Manus Island immigration detention centre in Papua New Guinea.

Bangladeshi refugee Mohammad Ohidul Islam said some locals have been throwing rocks at refugees. "We are really scared," he said from inside the center.

Rohingya Muslim refugee Imran Mohammed told the Sydney Morning Herald that local police were occasionally patrolling the site but were "not doing anything."

Media reports said some 100 locals rallied in Lorengau on Tuesday morning, calling for the refugees to be sent to Australia and not brought into their community.

Trying to prevent the closure, lawyers acting for the Sydney-based Refugee Action Coalition applied to the Papua New Guinea Supreme Court for an injunction to prevent the facility's closure and restore the supply of food, water and electricity, warning of a "catastrophic outcome" if the detainees were evicted.

"We were in a Supreme Court hearing this morning where we're hopeful of being able to raise the immediate issues of the abuse of human rights on Manus Island," coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul told The Associated Press from Sydney.

"I'm pretty sure we'll get the urgent hearing, but am waiting to hear whether well get the urgent injunctions to stop the closure and the forced relocations."

Papua New Guinea officials have said the facility will be returned to defense forces on Wednesday and anyone remaining would be considered to be trespassing on a military base.

"Move to alternative accommodation now," read notices that were posted by immigration officials Monday night. "Anyone choosing to remain here will be liable for removal from an active PNG military base."

Locals have threatened to blockade the three intended relocation centers in the nearby town of Lorengau—two of which are not surrounded by fencing. As Papua New Guinea authorities deployed extra police to the town, Rintoul said the situation on Manus was tense.

"There's a lot of things in play," Rintoul said. "There's the court, and there's how willing the PNG police and Border Force Australia are to use force against those in the detention center.

"But we know that the Australian government is very willing to use very brutal methods. They have the capacity to continue the siege of the detention center and try to starve people out even if they balk at the use of explicit force."

The detainees have reportedly secured fencing around the Lombrun compound as a possible barricade and have cleaned trash bins to collect rainwater and reconnected cut water tanks. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation said some asylum seekers had also been seen in shops buying food and solar-powered phone chargers, in order to use their phones for lighting.

Papua New Guinea has warned Australia that after the closure it will take no responsibility for "non-refugees" and people who refused to resettle. It says Australia is responsible for finding third-country options for refugees and for returning non-refugees to their home countries.

SKorea, China move to resolve disputes and hold summit talks

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and China will push to normalize their ties badly strained over the deployment of a contentious U.S. missile defense system in the South, both countries announced Tuesday, with Seoul saying their leaders are set to hold summit talks next week.

South Korea allowed the United States to install the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system on its soil this year, triggering angry rhetoric and economic retaliation from China which views THAAD's powerful radar as a threat to its own security. South Korea and the United States have repeatedly said the system is only aimed at defending against North Korea's advancing nuclear threats, rather than peering into Chinese territory.

On Tuesday, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said there was recently diplomatic communication between the two countries, during which they agreed to put bilateral exchange and cooperation back on a normal track soon and boost cooperation for a peaceful, diplomatic resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

The ministry statement said Beijing reaffirmed its opposition to THAAD and asked South Korea to handle "relevant issues appropriately" while South Korea reiterated the system doesn't target China. It said military officials of the two countries will discuss Chinese worries about the THAAD system.

Seoul's presidential office announced separately that President Moon Jae-in and Chinese President Xi Jinping will hold summit talks next week on the sidelines of an annual regional forum in Vietnam. It would be their second one-on-one meeting since Moon's inauguration in May.

China's Foreign Ministry in its own statement did not mention a summit. In that statement, Beijing repeated its objection to the anti-missile system but it indicated an interest in improving ties. It said both sides attached great importance to their relationship and were willing to push forward on developing a cooperative partnership.

Lu Chao, a Korea expert at Liaoning Social Sciences Academy, said the Xi-Moon summit could set the stage for more hi-level talks, including by military officials.

Tuesday's announcements by the two countries came after Xi consolidated his already considerable power at a twice-a-decade Communist Party congress that concluded last week.

Efforts have been recently made to improve ties, with neither country expected to gain much from a protracted standoff over the THAAD issue.

Many analysts say China appeared to use its THAAD opposition to bolster its regional clout but that such a stance could push South Korea closer to the United States and Japan for a potential anti-Beijing trilateral alliance.

In South Korea, there have been growing worries about frosty ties with China, which is its largest trading partner and some South Koreans say might one day replace the United States as the world's sole superpower. In retaliation for the THAAD deployment, Beijing suspended visits to South Korea by Chinese tour groups and trips to China by South Korean entertainers. South Korean retail and auto businesses in China suffered anti-South Korea sentiments.

The countries' top envoys to stalled regional talks on North Korea's nuclear program were to meet in Beijing on Tuesday. Earlier this month, South Korean and Chinese officials agreed to extend their currency swap deal. In August, Xi said he was willing to work with Moon on addressing differences between the two countries.

China is North Korea's main trading partner and last major diplomatic ally, making its cooperation crucial to the success of international sanctions on the North's weapons programs. The North was slapped with new, tough U.N. sanctions after it conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test in September.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tokyo police find multiple bodies in apartment, arrest man

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo police have arrested a man after finding "multiple" dismembered bodies in coolers in his apartment in a city southwest of the capital. The 27-year-old suspect, Takahiro Shiraishi, confessed to cutting up the bodies and hiding them in cold-storage cases, covered with cat litter, a police spokesman said Tuesday. Investigators found the bodies while searching for a 23-year-old woman who had disappeared, the spokesman said. He did not give his name, in line with police policy. National broadcaster NHK and other media said police believed the bodies of eight women and one man were hidden in the apartment. The missing woman is thought to be one of them. They said the woman had contacted the man via social media seeking someone for a suicide pact. Local media said police first found the severed heads of two victims in coolers in the apartment's entryway. The reports cited the man's neighbors as saying they had notice foul smells near the apartment.

China may mandate prison for disrespecting national anthem

BEIJING (AP)—China's legislature is considering a bill mandating prison sentences of up to three years for disrespecting the national anthem, amid rising nationalist appeals from the ruling Communist Party under the leadership of President Xi Jinping. The move reported Tuesday by state media follows Xi's appointment to a second five-year term as party leader, for which he has designated as a central motif of realizing the "Chinese Dream" of a powerful, prosperous nation. Since taking office in 2012, Xi has established a growing cult of personality that leans heavily on his image as a patriotic leader who brooks no slight to national dignity. Hallmarks of his term in office have included a stronger military, bolder foreign policy and aggressive economic expansion abroad, as well as sharply reduced space for criticism or political dissent at home.

World

Jordan water crisis worsens as Mideast tensions slow action

AP

This Oct. 23, 2017 photo shows a stretch of the King Abdullah Canal, the largest irrigation system near the town of Northern Shouneh, Jordan. Recent studies say the kingdom, a Western ally and refugee host nation with a growing population, is being hit particularly hard by climate change, getting hotter and drier than previously anticipated.

SHARHABIL, Jordan (AP)—From a hillside in northern Jordan, the Yarmouk River is barely visible in the steep valley below, reduced from a once important water source to a sluggish trickle overgrown with vegetation. Jordan's reservoirs are only one-fifth full, a record low, and vital winter rains are becoming more erratic.

Jordanians don't need scientists to tell them that they live in one of the world's driest countries in the center of the planet's most water-poor region.

But recent studies suggest the kingdom, a Western ally and refugee host nation with a growing population, is being hit particularly hard by climate change, getting hotter and drier than previously anticipated. One forecast predicts as much as 30 percent less rain by 2100.

"We are really in trouble if we don't take action in time," said Ali Subah, a senior Water Ministry official.

But addressing the problem would require cross-border cooperation, a commodity as scarce as water in the Jordan River basin shared by Jordan, Israel, the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon.

Jordan's flagship Red Sea desalination project, which includes a water trade with Israel, has faced repeated delays, most recently because of a diplomatic crisis that led to a scaling back of cross-border contacts since the summer.

A master plan by the regional advocacy group EcoPeace that seeks to transform the Jordan River valley into an economically vibrant green oasis by 2050 is based, in part, on a state of Palestine being established on Israeli-occupied lands. Palestinian independence remains distant, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently asserted that Israel will never leave the stretch of the Jordan Valley in the occupied West Bank.

Warning signs abound of what a failure to act looks like.

The Dead Sea and Jordan River, global treasures with religious significance as the cradle of Christianity, have been devastated by dropping water levels due to decades of water diversion to urban areas. Some experts suggest civil war in neighboring Syria, which led to a large influx of refugees to Jordan and other neighboring countries, may have been triggered in part and indirectly by a mismanaged drought.

Munqeth Mehyar, the president of EcoPeace, said the growing water scarcity urgently requires cooperation.

"People need to be aware of their water situation, and try to compromise between their water reality and their nationalistic politics," he said at his group's lush, formerly arid 270-hectare (675-acre) reserve in the Jordan Valley, a witness to nature's power to bounce back.

Stanford University researchers say that in the absence of international climate policy action, the kingdom would have 30 percent less rainfall by 2100. Annual average temperatures would increase by 4.5 degrees Celsius (8.1 degrees Fahrenheit) and the number and duration of droughts would double, compared to the 1981-2010 period.

Water flows to Jordan from the Yarmouk River, which originates in Syria, would remain low due to droughts and diversion, regardless of when the civil war ends.

The results, published in the journal Science Advances and based on improved data analysis tools, suggest the impact of climate change is likely to be more severe than anticipated, said Steven Gorelick, head of the university's internationally supported Jordan Water Project.

Another study found that man-made climate change was a major force behind an extreme drought in the area in early 2014, said co-author Rachael McDonnell of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture in Dubai.

"The findings are more severe than anticipated and more imminent," she said.

The World Bank named Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco and Syria as the countries in the Middle East and North Africa that will experience significantly increased water stress driven by climate change. The bank's report in August described the region as the "global hotspot of unsustainable water use."

Israel is on the road to resolving its water scarcity, producing close to 75 percent of water for domestic use in desalination plants and recycling more than half of its waste water for agricultural use, said Yacov Tsur, a professor of environmental economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Israel is being aided by technological advances, easy access to sea water and a strong economy that can afford large-scale projects, he said.

Jordan, which pulls 160 percent more water from the ground than nature puts in, views desalination as the main answer.

A Jordan-only option would be costly. Jordan's main population center is about 300 kilometers (190 miles) from the only coastline, making it prohibitively expensive to deliver desalinated Red Sea water to the capital, Amman.

In recent years, a water trade plan was developed to get around high transport costs.

Jordan would desalinate Red Sea water, sell some to nearby southern Israel and pump the brine into the Dead Sea to raise water levels there. Separately, water from northern Israel would be sold to nearby northern Jordan and to Palestinian communities.

Spain seeks rebellion charges against fired Catalan leaders

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Spain moved Monday to put Catalonia's secessionist leaders on trial for alleged crimes that carry maximum sentences of decades in prison, and some of the ousted government figures went to the Belgian capital, where an official said they might be able to request asylum.

As Catalonia spent its first working day under the direct rule of Madrid, following its regional parliament's unsuccessful efforts to create a new country, Spain was venturing into new political terrain amid an unprecedented crisis.

An early regional election on Dec. 21 is on the horizon, when both separatists and unionists will present candidates, but before that the country is likely to endure weeks of political uncertainty.

Cranking up the tension, Spain's state prosecutor said he would seek rebellion, sedition and embezzlement charges against members of the region's secessionist government.

Chief prosecutor Jose Manuel Maza said he would ask judges for preventive measures against the politicians and the governing body of the Catalan parliament that allowed a vote to declare independence on Friday. Maza didn't specify if those measures would include their arrest and detention before trial.

The rebellion, sedition and embezzlement charges carry maximum sentences of 30, 15 and six years in prison, respectively. It wasn't immediately clear when judges would rule on the prosecutors' request.

Those facing charges include ousted regional leader Carles Puigdemont, and his No. 2, Oriol Junqueras, as well as Catalan parliamentary speaker Carme Forcadell — high-profile figures in the region of 7.5 million people and its capital, Barcelona.

Puigdemont's whereabouts was a mystery early Monday. The uncertainty continued the game of political cat-and-mouse with which the Catalan leader has tormented the national government since he announced almost two months ago that Catalonia would hold an independence referendum on Oct. 1 — a ballot the government rejected as illegal.

It later emerged Puigdemont had traveled to Brussels, a trip that was confirmed by Spanish officials and a Catalan member of the European Parliament, though Puigdemont was not seen in public.

Belgian Asylum State Secretary Theo Francken said over the weekend that it would "not be unrealistic" for Puigdemont to request asylum. Spanish media reported that five other members of Puigdemont's government went with him to the Belgian capital.

Belgian lawyer Paul Bekaert told VRT network that Puigdemont had consulted him, adding "he is not in Belgium to specifically ask for political asylum. That is not decided yet."

WORLD BRIEFS

US promises up to $60M for anti-extremist force in Africa

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.S. pledged up to $60 million Monday to help a 5,000-soldier African force get going on fighting extremists in western Africa's vast Sahel region, but Washington remains cool to putting U.N. resources into the nearly $500 million-a-year effort as Sahel countries look to the world body for financing. The promise of U.S. money announced separately by U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson comes after the region's dangers hit home for Americans with the deaths of four U.S. soldiers in Niger on Oct. 4. Niger is among the "Group of Five" countries launching the joint military force, along with Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Chad. The nations have been grappling with a growing menace from extremists, including the Islamic State group, Boko Haram and groups linked to al-Qaida's North Africa branch. "These threats are real," Burkina Faso's foreign minister, Alpha Barry, told the Security Council on Monday, days after members returned from a visit to the region.

Access to food 'precarious' for Syrians stranded near Jordan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—The U.N. humanitarian chief has called for immediate access to deliver "life-saving assistance" to 50,000 Syrians stranded on the sealed border with Jordan, amid reports of shrinking food supplies. Mark Lowcock told the U.N. Security Council from Jordan late Monday that "access to food is precarious" for displaced Syrians in the desert camp of Rukban. Aid officials say commercial food shipments to Rukban dropped sharply since the summer, after Syrian government forces advanced in the area. They say black market prices have soared and that moderate, acute malnutrition among young children is on the rise. U.N. food deliveries from Jordan have been sporadic. Jordan balks at regular aid shipments from its soil, citing security concerns. Lowcock says U.N. agencies "are straining every sinew" to try to deliver aid from Syria.

Focus

AP

In this Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2017, photo, Iris Acosta, a 51-year-old hotel housekeeper from Honduras, pauses for photos in her sister's apartment in Los Angeles. Acosta is a Temporary Protected Status recipient, a program that is geared toward countries ravaged by natural disasters or war. The program is a temporary fix for immigrants without legal status, designed to avoid the scenario of the government deporting large numbers of immigrants to countries reeling from earthquakes, hurricanes and war.

Immigrants fear loss of humanitarian program under Trump

By AMY TAXIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Iris Acosta has spent the last two decades enrolled in an immigration program that has helped her get a work permit, put three children through school in her native Honduras and obtain health insurance to cover her cancer treatment.

Now, the 51-year-old hotel housekeeper from Los Angeles fears it could all come to an abrupt halt.

Acosta is one of about 400,000 immigrants who have been allowed to remain here under a little-known humanitarian program that could be on shaky ground in President Donald Trump's administration as it comes up for renewal in the coming months for many of its recipients.

The beneficiaries—many who came to the country illegally from Honduras and El Salvador—worry the administration will phase out their access to the program and deport them to countries where they haven't lived in years.

"I don't know what I'd do in my country," said Acosta, who has lived nearly half her life in the United States. "I have nothing there."

The program known as Temporary Protected Status is geared toward countries ravaged by natural disasters or war. It is a temporary fix for immigrants without legal status, much like the more widely known Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to protect from deportation immigrants brought to the U.S. as children - an initiative Trump recently ended.

Ten countries are currently designated for the program, with more than 70 percent either from El Salvador or Honduras, according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The program was created by law, but the Trump administration decides which countries should participate and for how long.

When the federal government taps a country for the program, its citizens already in the United States are allowed to remain and work here, regardless of how they came. They can't bring family to join them, and immigrants who arrive later are not allowed to sign up.

The U.S. government offered the status to Hondurans and Nicaraguans after their countries were decimated by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and to Salvadorans after a deadly 2001 earthquake. The idea was to let immigrants work and send money back to help relatives recover from the damage and not burden the countries with a large number of deportees.

While the status was meant to be temporary, it was repeatedly renewed by the Bush and Obama administrations over concerns the countries could not shoulder the return of so many people. As a result, some immigrants have been allowed to stay in the U.S. for nearly 20 years.

The program is up for renewal again in the coming months, with decisions on Honduras and Nicaragua expected by early November.

Officials at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have not said what the administration plans to do. The Homeland Security Secretary will review country conditions and make a decision at least 60 days before each country's status expires.

The Trump administration has stepped up immigration enforcement and signaled it could take a harder line on the program.

Since taking office, Trump has ended the program for Sudan and issued a shorter-than-usual renewal for Haiti, which was designated after a devastating 2010 earthquake.

Immigrant advocates are trying to raise awareness about the program and pressure lawmakers and businesses to lobby the administration to keep it. Unions and immigrant rights groups held rallies and a vigil last week in Washington and Los Angeles.

Still, the program has received scant attention compared to the soon-to-expire DACA program for young immigrants—many of whom are college-educated, American-raised, politically connected and internet-savvy. In contrast, those with temporary protected status often work in housekeeping or construction and lack the political clout of their DACA counterparts.

"This is working population through and through," said Cecilia Menjivar, a professor of sociology at University of Kansas, who has done research on those covered by the program.

Acosta came to the United States illegally in 1992 after she couldn't make ends meet at her job at a pool hall in Honduras. She started as a housekeeper in different homes, but once she had a work permit she got a formal job with steady pay and benefits.

She was also able to help her mother and children recover from the hurricane. They were evacuated before the storm hit but lost most of their belongings when their Tegucigalpa apartment flooded.

Erick Midence, a 58-year-old in Oxnard, California, said the program helped him grow his construction business and stop living in fear of immigration authorities.

"Though some suffered misfortune, others of us were helped by Hurricane Mitch," said Midence, also from Honduras.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, said the program needs to be overhauled so it can be returned to its temporary nature. One alternative, he said, would be to let immigrants who have had the work permits a long time remain but place legislative checks on how the program is used in future crises.

"It is the only way you can avoid this absurd situation where people are here temporarily for 20 years," Krikorian said.

As immigrants in the program brace for changes, some are taking advantage of favorable rulings in two U.S. circuit courts that let them apply for green cards here. The rulings apply to those who are married to Americans or who have adult children who are U.S. citizens.

Midence, for one, is exploring the idea since his children are now in their 20s and 30s and have U.S. citizenship.

But for many, it's not an option. Salvadoran immigrant Edwin Murillo relies on the status to run his construction business and raise his 10- and 4-year-old daughters in Dallas.

"We don't know what will happen tomorrow," said Murillo, 42, who has lived in the United States for nearly two decades. "But we are really afraid."

Good Housekeeping

On Gardening: Candy corn for Halloween and the garden too!

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Many of you will no doubt be handing out treats like candy corn this Halloween and, if I may suggest, you need some Candy Corn in the garden too. Of course, the candy corn in the garden isn't for your sweet tooth but to add an incredible array of color and texture that will beautify your landscape.

While it doesn't satisfy your sweet tooth, it does offer a tasty treat for pollinators like hummingbirds and butterflies. This shrub that most of us use as either an annual or returning perennial offers much to the backyard wildlife habitat. Dozens upon dozens of tubular flowers are borne along each of the long stems. The flowers that reach 1 to 2 inches in length start out a cheerful bright yellow maturing to orange-red.

Botanically speaking the Candy Corn also called Mexican Giant Cigar Plant is known as Cuphea micropetala. It is native to Mexico and with good winter drainage offers more cold hardiness than many realize. Many gardeners find it to be a returning perennial in zone 7b and worth every penny to grow it as an annual in colder regions.

TNS

Candy corn in the garden isn't for your sweet tooth but to add an incredible array of color and texture that will beautiful your landscape.

You probably already grow a variety of cupheas in the gardens as annuals like Mexican heather and firecracker flower. So to add Candy Corn makes sense and it spreads your bloom season out. Here at the Coast Georgia Botanical Gardens, we find ours to start blooming in early September offering a beautiful fall display and peaking at the height of butterfly season.

Since our Candy Corn cupheas are at peak now, you most likely will be planting yours next spring. Select a site in full sun and plant in well-drained soil. The Candy Corn can easily reach 3 feet tall and wide so plan on spacing plants 18 to 24 inches apart, planting at the same depth they are growing in the container. Apply a good layer of mulch, water to get established and then enjoy.

In early summer, pinch growth as needed and more branching will follow. Feed in mid-summer and again in early fall with a light application of a balanced, slow-release fertilizer. These species are drought tolerant, but watering during prolonged dry periods will pay dividends come fall.

TNS

Candy corn in the garden isn't for your sweet tooth but to add an incredible array of color and texture that will beautiful your landscape.

Plan on using them informally in the garden rather than lined up like soldiers. They work well with other hummingbird plants like the firebush, and Gold Star esperanza. In our Mediterranean, we feature them with the fall blooming Mexican bush sage, agave, and day blooming cestrum. In our Sun Garden, we have them in a sea of orange and yellow with esperanza, color guard yucca, thorn-less opuntia cactus and tall, yellow blooming thyrallis.

If you are thrilled when a hummingbird comes to your feeder, then you will be ecstatic when they come to the Candy Corn plants you have placed in the landscape. Even though much of the country is under the grip of the first cold front of the year make plans now to locate a source for Candy Corn and other cupheas in your landscape next spring.

Norman Winter is director of the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens at the Historic Bamboo Farm, University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, and author of "Tough-as-Nails Flowers for the South" and "Captivating Combinations: Color and Style in the Garden." Follow him at:

TNS

Candy corn in the garden isn't for your sweet tooth but to add an incredible array of color and texture that will beautiful your landscape.

The Garden Bug
Re-potting plants
A potted plant can collect pests such as scales, aphids, spider mites and mealy bugs as they sit outside all summer. To get it ready to come indoors for the winter, slide the plant and rootball from the old pot, and gently wash away all the soil from the roots. Swish the plants and its roots in warm, soapy water to remove pests, checking thoroughly; then rinse. Place the plant into new soil in a clean pot.
- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.planetnatural.com

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Life & Style

Revolutionaries to supernovas: Glamour names women of 2017

By LEANNE ITALIE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

This combination photo shows, top row from left, comedian Samantha Bee, Italian designer Maria Grazia Chiuri, model Gigi Hadid, director Patty Jenkins, and bottom row from left, actress Nicole Kidman, singer Solange Knowles, Rep. Maxine Waters and astronaut Peggy Whitson, who are among Glamour's Women of the Year Honorees. They will be featured in a December spread and honored November 13th at a gala in New York.
AP

NEW YORK (AP)— It's been one epic year for women, a notion definitely not lost on Glamour magazine as it named U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, 27 key facilitators of the Women's March on Washington and astronaut Peggy Whitson among its women of the year from the worlds of politics, entertainment, fashion, business and more.

The other winners announced Monday, ahead of a Nov. 13 gala in Brooklyn, New York, are actor Nicole Kidman, singer Solange Knowles, Syrian refugee Muzoon Almellehan, late-night TV host Samantha Bee, supermodel Gigi Hadid, Dior's first female creative director, Maria Grazia Chiuri, and "Wonder Woman" helmswoman Patty Jenkins.

Cindi Leive, Glamour's editor-in-chief, called them "wildly diverse changemakers" who reflect this "tumultuous and electric year for women." All will be on hand for the magazine's annual awards night, with a summit featuring Chelsea Clinton, Laverne Cox, Cecile Richards and other past winners planned for earlier the same day.

This year's honorees will be featured on multiple Glamour covers and in a spread for December.

A look at some in the Class of 2017:

THE REVOLUTIONARIES

Listening especially to the strong voices of young women after Hillary Clinton's popular vote win but Electoral College loss to Donald Trump, Glamour called the impact of the Women's March massive, along with an outpouring around the globe.

"Vastly more women turned out for the march, not just in Washington but the marches around the world, than anyone expected," Leive told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "There were so many hundreds of women who were involved in the organization and planning of these marches, but 27 key leaders and organizers really devoted the lion's share of their time between Election Day and Inauguration Day."

In all, an estimated half a million made their way to Washington, where maybe 200,000 had been expected, and 5 million more gathered everywhere from Australia to Antarctica.

The honorees are: Bob Bland, Tamika D. Mallory, Linda Sarsour, Paola Mendoza, Carmen Perez, Sarah Sophie Flicker, Janaye Ingram, Ginny Suss, Emma Collum, Cassady Fendlay, Lisa Harps, Mia Ives-Rublee, Rabbi Barat Ellman, Toshi Reagon, Sophie Ellman-Golan, ShiShi Rose, Caitlin Ryan, Jenna Arnold, Nantasha Williams, Alyssa Klein, Mariam Ehrari, Meredith Shepherd, Tabitha St. Bernard-Jacobs, Breanne Butler, Mrinalini Chakraborty, Brea Baker and De'Ara Balenger.

THE CONGRESSWOMAN WHO COULD

At 79, Maxine Waters describes herself in Glamour as a mix of "intellect and alley cat." She has been on the front line of progressive politics for years, but that moment over the summer when Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin appeared to be trying to run out her allotted five minutes rather than answer her questions about Trump's financial ties to Russia, the congresswoman shut him down when she declared repeatedly that she was "reclaiming my time." Her words became a hashtag and a call to action for women.

Waters earned Glamour's lifetime achievement award.

"Most young people really became aware of her over the course of this year because she's been very vocal, very outspoken, standing up to members of the administration, but she's actually had an incredibly inspiring lifetime of achievement," Leive said. "This is a woman who grew up without all that much and decided that she would go back to college in her 20s, after having worked at the phone company, and then worked as a community coordinator for Head Start. She wasn't born into politics or anything like that. She really made her own career."

GIGI THE SUPERNOVA

The first time Gigi Hadid bubbled to the surface was on the reality show "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills." Modeling since she was around 3, she went from a Guess campaign at 17 to supermodel five years later, racking up numerous magazine covers, editorial gigs and runway shows, along with a fashion collaboration with Tommy Hilfiger and an upcoming cosmetics collection with Maybelline.

As Glamour writes, Hadid didn't just take off, "she took over."

At 22, Hadid has a 36-million strong following on Instagram and a megaplatform that could easily have been wasted. Instead, she has spoken out about gun control and marched with sister Bella to protest Trump's signing of an executive order that suspended immigration to the U.S. from seven Muslim countries.

Their father, real estate developer Mohamed Hadid, was born in Palestine and their mother, Yolanda Hadid, emigrated from Holland in her teens.

"When I started working in fashion, it was like, Gigi, the all-American. I was very much that 'girl next door,'" she told Glamour, "but if you read my interviews, I always talk about my parents' cultural backgrounds."

Leive called her "incredibly wise beyond her years."

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

JOSE SABLAN PALACIOS

Lovingly known as George

We thought of you today, but that is nothing new.
We thought about you yesterday and days before that too.
We think of you in silence, we often speak your name.
All we have are memories and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is a keepsake from which we'll never part.
God has you in His arms, we have you in our hearts.

We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us
as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved
husband/father/grandfather/great-grandfather unto eternal life.
Mass of the intent will be celebrated daily beginning Thursday, October 26th, 2017
at 6:00am at the Mount Carmel Cathedral through November 3rd, 2017.
On the final day, Friday, November 3rd, an appreciation breakfast will
be served at Joeten-Daidai Social Hall.

With humble and sincere appreciation for your presence, thoughts and prayers.

Lydia Reyes Palacios and Children

'House of Cards' canceled as fallout continues for Spacey

NEW YORK (AP)—The fallout facing Kevin Spacey widened Monday following an accusation that he allegedly made sexual advances on a teen boy, with Netflix pulling the plug on his hit show "House of Cards" and "deeply troubled" producers of the political thriller arriving on set to comfort cast mates.

Executives from Netflix and the show's producer, Media Rights Capital, said they arrived in Baltimore, where the show is shot, on Monday afternoon to make sure actors and crew "continue to feel safe and supported." Spacey was not scheduled to be on set on Monday.

Though the decision to end the series was announced on Monday, it was made several months ago, according to a person with knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the decision.

Spacey

Spacey is the latest Hollywood man to be named in widening allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in entertainment, media and other industries. The avalanche of allegations began earlier this month after the New York Times published a story alleging that producer Harvey Weinstein had sexually harassed numerous women.

On Monday, NBC fired political journalist Mark Halperin after multiple allegations of sexual harassment, and The New Republic said it had launched an investigation after publisher and president Hamilton Fish was accused of harassing women.

The New York Times on Monday also published new allegations against Weinstein, including the account of a woman who said Weinstein of raping her in the late 1970s and a dancer's account of Weinstein misconduct in 2004 that led to a $100,000 settlement. Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister has said the Oscar winner denies all allegations of non-consensual sex.

The Producers Guild of America also announced it had instituted a lifetime ban on Weinstein from holding membership in the organization. The move came after Weinstein, 65, resigned his membership, the group said.

"This unprecedented step is a reflection of the seriousness with which the Guild regards the numerous reports of Mr. Weinstein's decades of reprehensible conduct," the guild said in a statement. "Sexual harassment can no longer be tolerated in our industry or within the ranks of producers guild membership. "

In an interview published by BuzzFeed News on Sunday, actor Anthony Rapp alleged that he was attending a party at Spacey's apartment in 1986 when an inebriated 26-year-old Spacey picked him up, placed him on his bed, and climbed on top of him. Rapp, then 14, was able to get away without any physical harm.

Spacey responded on Twitter by saying he doesn't remember the alleged encounter but if he acted the way Rapp alleges, "I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been deeply inappropriate drunken behavior."

It lives! This nightmare machine writes bone-chilling tales

In this Tuesday, Oct. 24, 2017 photo creators of a fiction-writing 'chatbot,' from the left, Massachusetts Institute of Technology postdoctoral associate Pinar Yanardag, of Istanbul, Turkey, MIT research scientist Manuel Cebrian, of Madrid, Spain, and MIT associate professor Iyad Rahwan, of Aleppo, Syria, sit for a photograph in front of a graphic from the home page of the site called "Shelley." AP

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Don't throw away your Stephen King collection just yet. But the Master of the Macabre might want to keep an eye out behind him, because scientists have just unleashed a nightmare machine on a mission to churn out its own bone-chilling tales.

MIT researchers have applied the electrodes and brought to life a new fiction-writing bot they call Shelley—after "Frankenstein" author Mary Shelley. To keep the bot busy—no wandering the countryside terrorizing villagers!—the team gave it a crash course in the horror genre, forcing it to read 140,000 stories published by amateur writers on a popular online forum.

Now Shelley's artificial neural network is generating its own stories, posting opening lines on Twitter, then taking turns with humans in collaborative storytelling.

COLD, CALCULATING HORROR

"She's creating really interesting and weird stories that have never really existed in the horror genre," said Pinar Yanardag, a postdoctoral researcher at the MIT Media Lab. One strange tale, for instance, involved a pregnant man who woke up in a hospital.

The lab's experiment, launched in time for Halloween, follows a similar project to create scary images last year. But can all that deep-learning technology and powerful computation truly turn out terrifying tales? Let's just say the experiment is still in progress.

King, the world's most famous living horror writer, has said it can take him "months and even years " to get a novel's opening paragraph right. Shelley takes a couple of seconds—and the results can be a little awkward.

"The doll came at me with a syringe," the bot posted on Twitter on Friday. "Its blood shot out of its mouth, and it began to uncover itself. It was then that it began to dance."

ITS INSATIABLE APPETITE ... FOR DATA

Shelley's sentences are inspired by the hive mind it's learned from: a crew of horror hobbyists who participate in Reddit's "r/nosleep" forum . Machine-learning algorithms are fueled by big troves of data, and these amateur writers have produced about 700 megabytes of home-grown horror over the past decade.

The researchers didn't train Shelley in the genre's classics, both for copyright reasons and because there just aren't enough of them.

"If you look at all the literature by Lovecraft or Stephen King or Edgar Allan Poe, it would be just a few megabytes," said MIT research scientist Manuel Cebrian. "We would still not have enough data."

Yanardag and Cebrian are themselves aspiring horror fiction writers. While readers might not be buying Shelley-produced books anytime soon, the system learns from the feedback it gets, and might help nudge a human writer into thinking more creatively.

"You tend to get stuck," Cebrian said. "This kind of technology helps you write the next paragraph so you don't get so-called writer's block."

Norwegian soprano is on the brink of stardom

WEXFORD, Ireland (AP)—From the moment Lise Davidsen bursts onstage midway through Act 1 of Cherubini's opera "Medea," the other characters don't stand a chance.

Davidsen

It's not just that the title character is hell-bent on wreaking a horrible vengeance on all around her. It's also because the young Norwegian soprano unfurls a voice of such overwhelming power and beauty that she immediately casts the other singers into the shade.

Davidsen, taking on her most demanding role to date at this year's Wexford Festival Opera, triumphs despite some mushy Italian diction and a bizarre updated production that forces her into awkward and even ridiculous stage business.

"Hers is truly a voice in a million," raved Rupert Christiansen in The Telegraph, "and it is one used with feeling and intelligence, too."

Reviews like that are becoming commonplace for Davidsen. When she sang the title role in Richard Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos" last summer at the Glyndebourne Festival, Fiona Maddocks wrote in The Guardian that her sound, "silken at the top, rich with deep mezzo colours, pours forth flawlessly as if in one clear, stupendous breath."

She concluded: "It's one of the greatest voices I have heard."

And the great German mezzo Waltraud Meier was similarly impressed when she coached her in a master class in Aix-en-Provence in the summer of 2014. "When she opened her mouth and sang I almost fell back," Meier told The Associated Press.

Davidsen, who grew up in Stokke south of Oslo, started studying singing at 15. But even after she graduated from the Grieg Academy of Music in Bergen in 2010 and enrolled at Copenhagen's Royal Danish Academy of Opera, she hardly anticipated making a career of it.

NBC fires Mark Halperin after sexual harassment accusations

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC News said Monday it has terminated its contract with Mark Halperin, the political journalist who was accused of sexual harassment by several women when he worked at ABC News more than a decade ago.

Since the charges came to light last week, publisher Penguin Press canceled a planned book by Halperin and John Heilemann about the 2016 election and HBO pulled the plug on a miniseries that would have been based on the book. Showtime also said Halperin would not be brought back with co-hosts Heilemann and Mark McKinnon should the political series "The Circus" be renewed.

At NBC News, Halperin was a contributor who was most visible as a regular panelist on MSNBC's "Morning Joe." The network had initially suspended him last week.

Halperin has apologized for his behavior and said he sought counseling. He said he acknowledges and apologizes for conduct that was often aggressive and crude.

"No one had filed a human resources complaint against me, no colleague had confronted me," he said on Twitter. "But I didn't need a call from HR to know that I was a selfish, immature person, who was behaving in a manner that had to stop."

Journalist Eleanor McManus was interviewed by NBC's Megyn Kelly on Monday, describing how Halperin tried to kiss her and more in his office in the late 1990s, when she was a college student and had been invited by him to give career advice. She said she quickly left the office and didn't report the incident, and that the stories that emerged about Halperin last week made her angry.

"I'm angry because I was silent, and because I was silent this happened to other people," she said.

She said Halperin's behavior was "an open secret," and that she's upset that some women did not pursue journalism as a career because of what had happened to them.

Halperin said on Twitter that some of the allegations made against him were not true, although he did not specify which ones. "But I realize that's a small point in the scheme of things," he said.

Man's announced engagement surprises his wife of 17 years

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been together 21 years, married for 17. We recently did a short sale on our home and moved to Texas. It was a professional move for my husband.

At first I was wowed; then I grew homesick for my family, my job and my friends. My husband was not supportive of my emotional needs.

Three years later, my husband has announced his engagement to another woman via the internet. He has been seeing her all this time, while financially supporting my household and saying, "Goodbye, I love you," at the end of our phone calls and texts.

Needless to say, I have filed for divorce. His "cupcake" doesn't know he's still married and has large debts from our relationship as well as this new one, so she's in for a big financial surprise.

In the meantime, we'll communicate amicably. I still love him. I want to expose him to her. I don't think she'd be making wedding plans if she knew he was still married. Should I let them figure it out for themselves or maybe spend my lifetime with regrets?

HEAVY HEART, NO REGRETS

DEAR HEAVY HEART: If you want to do the cupcake a "favor" and expose your almost-ex, I can't stop you. But if you do, you can bet your divorce will be anything but amicable, and I have serious doubts that you'll achieve your goal.

DEAR ABBY: My husband is always grabbing me in a sexual way. I find it demeaning and annoying. When I ask him to stop, he says it's normal and I should be glad he's still interested in me. He says it's my job to "take care of my man," even if it means being awakened in the middle of the night. Is this normal?

MANHANDLED IN GEORGIA

DEAR MANHANDLED: When a man approaches a woman in a sexual way, it is supposed to be pleasurable for both parties. If one of them asks the other to stop and the person doesn't, it becomes more of an assault than foreplay. It is not your "job" to have sex with your husband when he wakes you up in the middle of the night demanding it. That borders on coercion, and it is not "normal."

DEAR ABBY: My younger brother smokes, but not cigarettes. Recently, he has been taking a pipe to school. I'm the one who drives him to the bus stop every morning, and I've told him to leave it at home, but he refuses to listen to me. I'm worried he's going to get caught by the campus police, get kicked out of our very nice school and develop a criminal record. I can't tell our parents because that will do more harm than good, and I can't make him listen to me. What do I do?

SMOKING MAD OLDER SISTER

DEAR SISTER: Ask yourself which will do your brother more good—telling your parents what he has been up to so they can intervene, or remaining silent and letting him get kicked out of school for being stoned in class? Tell your parents!

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Forbes: Michael Jackson top earning dead celeb

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jackson died eight years ago, but he's still generating millions of dollars.

Jackson is atop the Forbes list of top-earning dead celebrities for the fifth straight year, with $75 million. Forbes says Jackson's earnings are boosted by a new greatest hits album, a Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil show and a stake in the EMI music publishing catalog.

Two other singers join Jackson in the top five. Elvis Presley comes in fourth with $35 million and Bob Marley ranks fifth with $23 million.

Golf legend Arnold Palmer is the second-highest earner. He brought in $40 million in part through sales of Arizona lemonade and ice tea beverage made in his name.

Palmer is followed by Charles Schulz. The creator of the "Peanuts" franchise made $38 million.

AP

In this March 5, 2009, file photo, Michael Jackson appears at an event to announce a series of concerts in London. Forbes announced on Oct. 30, 2017, that Jackson topped its list of highest-earning dead celebrities.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Christina Aguilera to perform Whitney Houston medley at AMAs

NEW YORK (AP)—Christiana Aguilera will perform a medley of the late Whitney Houston's hits at the American Music Awards next month to mark the 25th anniversary of Houston's film, "The Bodyguard." Aguilera will perform songs from the film's soundtrack, which included one of Houston's signature numbers, a cover of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You." Aguilera says in a statement that Houston was a personal idol and says her kindness to her as she was coming up in the business "will forever be cherished." Houston's estate says the singer thought Aguilera was "one of the best voices she enjoyed in this generation of music." Houston died at the age of 48 in 2012. The AMAs will be handed out live on ABC on Nov. 19.

Young jump rope champion struck, killed by car in New Jersey

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Police say an 8-year-old New Jersey boy whose jump rope abilities were featured on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" was struck and killed by a car while walking home. Authorities say Jeremiah Grant was walking from a team fundraiser in Jersey city on Saturday afternoon when he was hit by a Jeep. Grant was a member of the Honey Bees. The champion double-dutch roping group once appeared on Fallon's show. The boy was rushed to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Police say the Jeep's 60-year-old driver drove off until witnesses flagged him down. Witness Jose Pimentel says the driver told him he thought he had hit a backpack. The driver remained at the scene until police arrived. No charges have been filed.

Dancer badly injured in hit-and-run returns to the stage

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—A ballet dancer who was seriously injured in a Rhode Island hit-and-run over the summer has returned to the stage. Festival Ballet Providence dancer Jordan Nelson was riding his bike in June when he was struck by a car. He suffered skull fractures and a broken clavicle. WLNE-TV reports doctors told Nelson he'd never dance again but he wouldn't accept that as an answer. Nelson says the first place he visited after being released from the hospital was the dance studio. He says he danced instead of undertaking physical therapy. He says he had to reteach himself and "rebuild from square one." He says he's stronger than ever.
The hit-and-run driver has not been caught. Nelson began his ballet training in St. Paul, Minnesota, and spent time at Ballet Chicago.

Once out of office, Christie to see Springsteen on Broadway

TRENTON, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie knows what he'll be doing on his first night out of office next year: Seeing Bruce Springsteen on Broadway. The term-limited Republican and avid Springsteen fan announced his plans Monday during a TV appearance on "Good Day New York" on the city's Fox affiliate. Christie's term ends on Jan. 16. He and his wife plan to see "The Boss" the following evening. When asked if Springsteen knows Christie is coming, the governor said "he'll know when he sees it." Christie has attended more than 140 Springsteen concerts.

MTV reviving its 'Jersey Shore' franchise, southern style

NEW YORK (AP)—MTV is reviving its "Jersey Shore" franchise, this time down South. The network said Monday it will debut "MTV Floribama Shore" later this month, following a cast of eight young adults who spent a summer together in Florida's Panama City Beach with the expected personal dramas. It's being made by the same production company as "Jersey Shore," which aired from 2009 to 2012. "Jersey Shore" was the network's highest-rated original series, making stars of characters like Snooki and The Situation, and spawning worldwide spinoffs like "Warsaw Shore" in Poland. MTV is becoming the reboot channel, recently reviving "Total Request Live" and "Unplugged." Its new "Siesta Key" is inspired by "Laguna Beach." "Floribama Shore" debuts Nov. 27, the Monday after Thanksgiving.

Prosecutor asks court to stop museum's sale of Rockwell art

PITTSFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Prosecutors are asking a court to halt a Massachusetts museum's plans to sell 40 works of art, including two by Norman Rockwell. State Attorney General Maura Healey's office urged the court Monday to stop the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield from selling the art until the legal questions are sorted out. Rockwell's three sons had requested the order to stop the museum. The Democratic attorney general says her office hasn't finished its investigation into the possible sale beginning Nov. 13. She says it may be impossible to get the artworks back if a court later finds the museum wasn't allowed to sell them in the first place. A lawyer for the museum said it continues to believe there are no legal barriers to the sales.

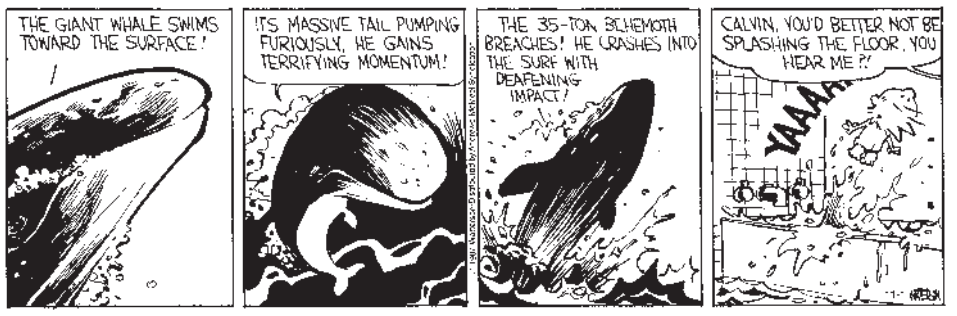
Weinstein gets lifetime ban from producers guild

NEW YORK (AP) —Harvey Weinstein has been banned for life from the producers guild. The Producers Guild of America announced Monday that Weinstein had resigned his membership, and the group opted to impose a lifetime ban on him. The guild called it an unprecedented step. The guild's board of directors had previously voted unanimously earlier this month to initiate termination proceedings against Weinstein. Dozens of women, including actresses Angelina Jolie and Gwyneth Paltrow, have accused Weinstein of sexual harassment, while several others have accused the Oscar winner of raping them. Weinstein's representative Sallie Hofmeister has said the producer denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE GIANT WHALE SWIMS TOWARD THE SURFACE!
IT'S MASSIVE TAIL PUMPING FURIOUSLY, HE GAINS TERRIFYING MOMENTUM!
THE 35-TON BEHEMOTH BREACHES! HE CRASHES INTO THE SURF WITH DEAFENING IMPACT!
CALVIN, YOU'D BETTER NOT BE SPLASHING THE FLOOR, YOU HEAR ME?!
YAAAA

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

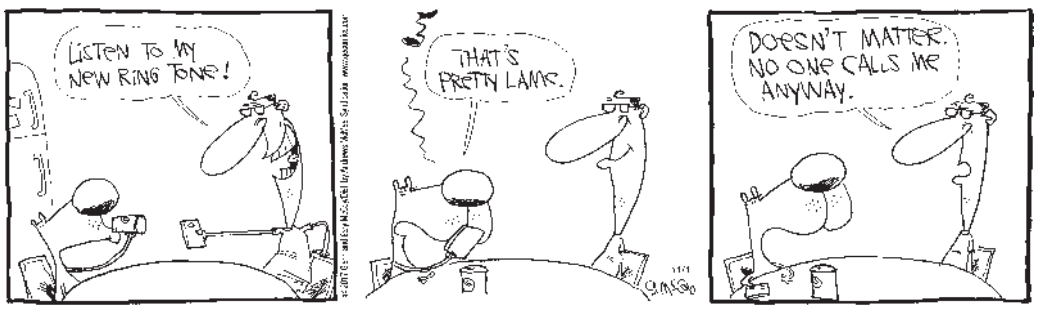
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

WHY CAN'T WE HAVE HALLOWEEN ALL YEAR?
HONESTLY? IT JUST MAKES IT SEEM LESS SPECIAL.
LIKE, I LOVE SEASONAL FOODS, BUT I LIKE THAT THEY GO AWAY FOR A WHILE.
TRUE. AND I DO LIKE SEEING YOU CRY WHEN THE PUMPKIN SPICE LATTES SHOW UP.
I TOLD YOU. I GOT NUTMEG IN MY EYE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

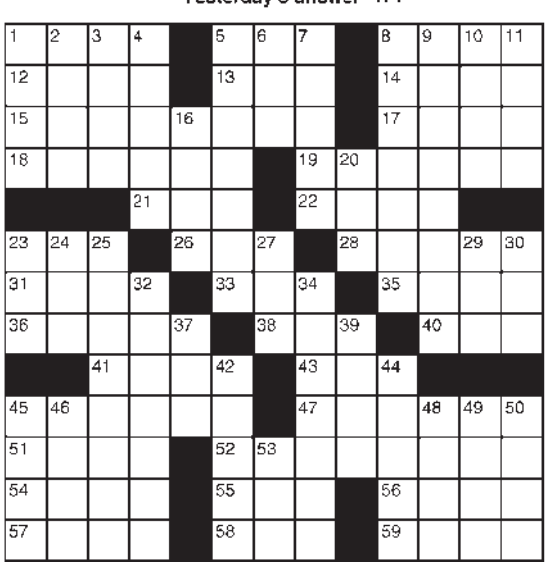
ACROSS
1 Teen's woe
5 Barn bird
8 Eventful periods
12 Betting group
13 Luau bowlful
14 Taboo
15 Place of prosperity
17 Dorothy's dog
18 Shopping binges
19 Muppet frog
21 Train lines (Abbr.)
22 Swizzle
23 Melancholy
26 Fanatic
28 Sordid
31 "Scram!"
33 Buddy
35 Poker variety
36 Weeper of myth
38 Obtained
40 Type measures
41 Stereo alternative
43 Club —
45 Square dance call
47 Eye slyly
51 Early automaker
52 Photog's choice
54 Spruced up
55 Ballpark fig.
56 Jazzy James
57 Santa's sackful
58 Actress Ruby
59 Antelope's playmate

DOWN
1 LAPD alerts
2 Hen pen
3 Former queen of Jordan
4 Gantry of fiction
5 Critter that plays dead
6 Dazzle
7 Chain components
8 Ledger items
9 Hotel door posting
10 Con
11 Chimney buildup
16 Shore bird
20 UFO crew
23 Nine-digit ID
24 Sashimi fish
25 Armageddon
27 Label
29 Silent
30 QB's stats
32 Woodwind players
34 Fruity concoction
37 Finale
39 Abound
42 Leaked slowly
44 Edited out
45 Word of warning
46 Bread spread
48 Seeger or Sampras
49 Initial chip
50 Despot
53 Sugary suffix

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	I	F	M	■	C	P	A	■	S	I	O	W
S	O	C	A	■	I	U	D	■	I	I	I	C
S	I	I	P	Y	A	R	D	■	■	M	I	N
T	O	E	■	C	■	L	■	S	P	O	O	K
■	■	■	S	Y	N	■	D	I	S	■	■	■
M	A	C	H	G	■	C	U	S	H	I	O	N
A	L	A	I	■	S	H	O	■	A	C	R	E
T	A	D	P	O	L	E	■	S	P	E	E	D
■	■	■	W	R	Y	■	C	I	F	■	■	■
A	I	U	R	T	■	C	O	O	■	S	K	I
I	O	N	F	■	S	H	I	P	M	F	N	T
A	C	O	C	■	A	F	F	■	B	R	O	S
A	O	O	K	■	R	S	■	A	B	R	Y	■

Yesterday's answer 11-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Penn Badgley, 31; Toni Collette, 45; Jenny McCarthy, 45; Lyle Lovett, 60.

Happy Birthday: Use your intelligence to excel. Look outside your neighborhood and you will find an opportunity that tempts you to make a transition from one lifestyle to another. Embrace the unfamiliar and learn from the encounters you have with people from all walks of life. A carefree attitude will result in greater vision and diversity. Express your desires and follow your heart. Your numbers are 9, 17, 20, 26, 37, 39, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Plan your actions and strategize carefully to avoid any backlash. Get the green light before you leap into something new. Know what you are up against and have solutions in mind before you begin. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Do whatever it takes to get along with your peers. Getting into a debate will waste valuable time that should be put toward getting ahead. Displaying your restraint and ability to stay focused will lead to advancement. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Channel your energy into something you believe in. Take on a challenge to get fit and healthy. A change of attitude and to the way you live will give you the boost you need to be the best you can be. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Use your imagination to your benefit, not to dwell on something that hasn't happened. Be careful how you handle emotional matters. Give others the benefit of the doubt. If you hold a grudge, it will make you appear negative. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Getting all fired up over something inconsequential will work against you. Do your best to see all sides of a situation before you leap into action. Changes can be made, but they have to be realistic and beneficial long-term. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* You'll be right on the money when it comes to your work and how you decipher the best way to do things. You can improve your relationships with kindness and understanding. Listening and offering solutions will lead to popularity. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take some initiative and do something that is physically challenging. Personal gains and updating your appearance are both highlighted. A change in an important relationship will make you happy and stabilize your life. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You can make a difference if you use your intelligence to bring about positive changes. Your interactions with others will encourage deep thought, greater understanding and solutions that can make a difference to the way you excel. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put some energy behind the improvements you want to make. The difference it will make to the way you live will result in positive affirmations that you are heading in the right direction. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take pride in what you do. Pay attention to details rather than rushing through a project leaving unfinished odds and ends to contend with. Abrupt changes will set off an emotional situation that could stifle your progress if you aren't careful. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make a difference in the world by channeling energy into improving your community. Take action to ensure that things get done and you will encourage others to pitch in and help as well. Less talk and more love are favored. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An emotional discussion with someone you are in a partnership with should be avoided. You'll get backed into a corner, leaving you no choice but to give in or retreat. Calm down before you make a decision you'll regret. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are playful, energetic and competitive. You are charming and fascinating.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7	5				4	9	
4			6		5			8
2			3					1
9			4					3
	5	1				2	6	
8			5					7
1			2					9
5			7		8			2
	2	7				8	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/01

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	4	3	9	8	6	2	1	7
6	8	2	7	4	1	5	3	9
9	7	1	2	5	3	6	8	4
2	3	8	6	1	9	7	4	5
4	1	9	5	7	8	3	6	2
7	5	6	3	2	4	1	9	8
3	2	4	1	9	7	8	5	6
1	9	7	8	6	5	4	2	3
8	6	5	4	3	2	9	7	1

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

FIGHTING A TICKET — Solution: 6 letters

B	S	P	E	E	D	S	S	E	L	K	C	E	R	R
E	T	V	N	O	I	T	A	N	A	L	P	X	E	O
G	N	A	T	N	E	M	H	S	I	N	U	P	I	T
I	I	L	S	R	T	R	O	P	P	A	R	D	N	U
N	O	I	T	A	R	T	S	I	G	E	R	R	S	C
R	P	D	H	D	I	G	E	G	S	O	E	E	T	E
C	A	E	G	A	A	N	N	E	C	Y	N	R	A	S
A	R	L	I	R	Ⓛ	I	N	E	W	I	D	E	T	O
S	K	A	R	Ⓐ	P	T	R	A	F	F	I	C	E	R
E	I	Y	Ⓦ	P	A	E	L	O	W	E	R	I	M	P
G	N	Ⓢ	O	T	P	E	N	A	L	T	Y	F	E	O
R	G	T	I	A	A	M	Y	N	O	L	E	F	N	L
A	S	O	U	U	Y	E	S	N	E	F	F	O	T	I
H	N	T	C	E	N	O	I	T	C	I	V	N	O	C
C	O	U	R	T	N	E	M	E	C	R	O	F	N	E

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Auto, Begin, Case, Charge, Conviction, Court, Delay, Enforcement, Explanation, Felony, Fine, Laws, Lawyer, Lower, Meeting, Offense, Officer, Parking, Pay, Penalty, Points, Police, Prosecutor, Punishment, Radar, Rapport, Reckless, Record, Registration, Reinstatement, Representation, Rights, Speed, Stopping, Traffic, Trial, Valid

Yesterday's Answer: Internet

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CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPS-007

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: NOVEMBER 15, 2017 TIME: 10:00A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) CLASS "I" VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, PATROL SECTION"

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/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
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ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-019

SUBMISSION DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2017 • DATE: 10:30 A.M.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Astros, Dodgers connect, riveting Series onto Game 6

LOS ANGELES (AP)—At this rate, Justin Verlander might very well hit his first home run for real.

A classically poor-hitting pitcher, the Houston ace knocked one over the wall last week at Dodger Stadium in batting practice. Maybe that bolstered his belief that this batch of baseballs is slick and juiced.

On Tuesday night, Verlander aims to lead the Astros to their first championship when he faces the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 6 of a power-packed World Series that's already set the mark for home runs.

"We're just making memories right now," Astros catcher Brian McCann said, a day after he homered.

A total of 22 homers so far, more than 1+ miles of dingers.

These nightly episodes of home run derby are connecting with fans, too—in much of the country, they stayed up well past midnight to watch Houston outlast the Dodgers 13-12 in 10 innings at Minute Maid Park, TV numbers showed.

With each swing, perhaps this Series really is becoming more riveting.

George Springer, Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa, Yuli Gurriel and McCann launched longballs in the Astros' back-and-forth thriller. Cody Bellinger and Yasiel Puig homered for the Dodgers—seven different players on each side have homered.

"This is not going to be finished Tuesday. It's going to be Game 7," Puig said.

Springer has hit three in the Series. His assessment of Game 5: "Bedlam."

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig hits a two-run homer against the Houston Astros during the ninth inning of Game 5 of baseball's World Series Sunday, Oct. 29, 2017, in Houston.

"This is the craziest atmosphere I've ever played in, the craziest results, just big hit after big hit, big play after big play," the Houston leadoff man said.

Major League Baseball set a record this year for most home runs in a season and, fittingly, Minnesota leadoff man Brian Dozier began the playoffs with a homer.

Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw, meanwhile, has been tagged for a record eight home runs in a single postseason. Gurriel got him in Game 4, and Houston has 13 overall against the Dodgers.

Did anyone expect this many at this time in October? Surprising, right?

"I guess a little bit, just because both teams are putting up incredible at-bats in the most important times," Astros manager A.J. Hinch said Monday on a conference call.

"I think we realize on the pitching side, both teams are at the very end of their rope," he said. "Their mistakes are getting hit. But the volume is certainly record-setting, and certainly the intensity of the moments that are ending in home runs is hard to fathom."

Dodgers lefty Rich Hill opposes Verlander in a rematch from Game 2. That night, the teams wound up combining for a Series-record eight home runs, with Houston holding on to win 7-6 in 11 innings.

Los Angeles reliever Ross Stripling was among 14 pitchers, seven on each side, who worked in the Game 5 slugfest.

"If we can just hold them to less than 12 runs, we can get some wins," Stripling said.

There were 6,105 home runs during the regular season, an average of about 2.5 homers per game. There have been 4.4 per game in the Series.

The ball has been flying out of the ballpark all year," said Justin Turner, whose tiebreaking homer helped Los Angeles win the opener, when the gametime temperature was 103 degrees.

"So, no, it's not surprising. I will say that you might see a little bit different game here tomorrow night, a little bit different weather. It's going to be a lot cooler here than it was for the first two games.

Phillies hire Gabe Kapler as manager

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The Philadelphia Phillies went outside the organization and perhaps outside the box to get a new manager.

Former major league outfielder Gabe Kapler was hired Monday, completing a search that lasted one month.

"I'm equal parts honored, humbled and excited by the opportunity with the Phillies, an elite franchise in a city rich in history, tradition, sports excellence and with amazingly passionate fans," Kapler said in a statement. "I believe there is no better place to build a winning environment, and I take that task very seriously."

Kapler has served as director of player development for the Los Angeles Dodgers since 2014. The Dodgers trail the Houston Astros 3-2 in the World Series. Game 6 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles.

Kapler will be introduced at a news conference after the Series ends.

The 42-year-old Kapler replaces Pete Mackanin, who moved into a front-office position.

Kapler batted .268 with 82 homers and 386 RBI over 12 seasons with six teams between 1998-2010. He had no previous ties to the Phillies.

"Gabe has a track record of leadership, winning, progressive thinking and working with young players, and we fully believe that he is the right person to guide this organization into the future," general manager Matt Klentak said.

That "progressive" thinking includes a fondness for analytics and sports science. Those are two important areas for Philadelphia's management group.

Klentak said he wanted a manager with a new voice and style to lead the Phillies into contention. They finished 66-96, but a talented core of young players improved in the second half and could be ready to compete.

Kapler's only managerial experience came in 2007 when he took a season off from playing to lead Boston's Single-A affiliate. He also coached Team Israel during the 2013 World Baseball Classic qualifying period.

"I'm obviously very excited for Gabe, and I think he'll do a great job with that young group of players, a very talented group," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "But as far as with respect to our farm system and the culture that he's kind of instilled with the teaching, he's really impacted the guys that are with us right now.

"It takes all of us, the farm system, baseball ops, scouting and obviously the major league staff to accomplish what we've accomplished, but Gabe and his staff have been a huge part of what we have this year.

In San Diego, the rebuilding Padres have hired Matt Stairs as their hitting coach.

Stairs replaces Alan Zinter, who was fired on Sept. 1. Stairs is the Padres' ninth hitting coach since Petco Park opened in 2004.

The move was announced Monday.

Stairs, 49, spent the 2017 season as the hitting coach for the Philadelphia Phillies, his first professional coaching position. He played parts of 19 seasons in the major leagues with 12 different franchises, including the Padres in 2010.

General manager A.J. Preller says Stairs "possesses a true understanding of and passion for hitting."

Stairs is baseball's career leader in pinch-hit home runs with 23 and ranks second in homers by a Canadian-born player with 265, trailing only Larry Walker (383).

Stairs is perhaps best-known for a big homer that decided a playoff game, his pinch-hit, two-run shot off Jonathan Broxton in Game 4 of the 2008 NL Championship Series at Dodger Stadium.

Woods to return in the Bahamas

NEW YORK (AP)—Play it again, Tiger Woods.

For the second straight year, Woods will return from back surgery at his holiday tournament in the Bahamas the week after Thanksgiving.

Woods has not played since he withdrew from the Dubai Desert Classic on Feb. 3 with back spasms. Two months later, he had his fourth back surgery in just over two years.

Woods will be part of the 18-man field at the Hero World Challenge, which starts Nov. 30 at Albany Golf Club. While sponsor exemptions are limited to the top 50 in the world, Woods is exempt as the tournament host.

His latest procedure was a fusion surgery—he previous three were microdiscectomy surgeries—and Woods reported instant relief. He also said just one month ago at the Presidents Cup that he had no idea what his future held.

Doctors gave him clearance to practice without limitations about a week later, and Woods had been posting video on Twitter of a full swing with an iron, a driver and then his signature stinger shot with the driver.

"I am excited to return to competitive golf at the Hero World Challenge," Woods said in a story on his website. "Albany is the perfect setting and it will be great to join this outstanding field."

The tournament has no cut.

A year ago, Woods returned after 15 months recovering from two back surgeries. He made 24 birdies, but finished 15th out of 18 players. The tournament is not official on any tour, although it does award world ranking points.

He made his first PGA Tour start at Torrey Pines and missed the cut, and then went to Dubai and didn't make it past the first round before his back began acting up.

Woods made the announcement just three days after he pleaded guilty to reckless driving in a deal that allows him to avoid jail time if he doesn't violate terms of his probation.

The deal stems from a Memorial Day arrest on a DUI charge when Woods was found asleep at the wheel of his car, which was still running and parked at an awkward angle about 15 minutes from his home in Florida.

Woods attributed it to a bad combination of prescription medicine.

According to a toxicology report, Woods had the active ingredient for marijuana, two painkillers, the sleep drug Ambien and the anti-anxiety drug Xanax in his system.

He completed a drug treatment program in July.

Curry scores 31 as Warriors blow past Clippers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors had looked a tad vulnerable to start the new season.

They had a 4-3 record and blew a 14-point second half lead at home to the Detroit Pistons on Sunday.

One day later, the team played more like the defending champions, using a stifling defense to blow out the Los Angeles Clippers 141-113. It was Golden State's 11th consecutive win over Los Angeles.

"That looked like us," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

The Warriors got a terrific all-around game from Curry, who scored 31 points, hit seven of his 11 3-point attempts and added six assists and five rebounds.

The Clippers (4-2) were the last team in the NBA to lose a game, but dropped their second straight despite 19 points from Danilo Gallinari and 17 from Lou Williams.

The last time the Clippers defeated the Warriors was Christmas Day in 2014.

"I don't think they get enough credit defensively. It's amazing," said Clippers coach Doc Rivers. "Whenever we talk about Golden State, we only talk about their offense. And I think their defense is what sets them apart."

Though the Clippers try to run their offense through Blake Griffin, the power forward was quickly doubled whenever he touched the ball down low and struggled to get his shot off.

He finished with 16 points on four of 10 shooting.

"They came pretty early," Griffin said. "Some teams wait for the first dribble, some teams wait until you have a foot outside the lane. They doubled pretty early and pretty consistently throughout the game.

AP

Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green, left, high-fives guard Stephen Curry, right, during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Monday, Oct. 30, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Timberwolves 125, Heat 122, OT

In Miami, Jeff Teague scored 23 points, Andrew Wiggins scored 22 and the Minnesota Timberwolves scored the first six points of overtime before holding on to beat the Miami Heat 125-122 on Monday night.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who got 16 from Jimmy Butler and 13 from Jamal Crawford.

Jimmy Butler scored 14, Jamal Crawford scored 13 and Towns grabbed 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Dion Waiters tied a career-high by scoring 33 for Miami, 14 of those coming in the fourth quarter including a layup that sent the game to overtime. His 30-footer that would have tied the game as time expired bounced off the rim.

Knicks 116, Nuggets 110

In New York, Kristaps Porzingis scored a career-high 38 points and Kyle O'Quinn added 15 points and 12 rebounds to help the Knicks beat the Nuggets.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored all 13 of his points in the fourth quarter after the Knicks had blown all of their 23-point third-quarter lead.

Nikola Jokic led the Nuggets with 28 points and Jamal Murray scored 20.

Celtics 108, Spurs 94

In Boston, Kyrie Irving scored 24 points, Jaylen Brown added 18 and Al Horford had 13 rebounds to help the Celtics beat the Spurs and lead Boston to its fifth straight victory.

Irving scored 24 for the third straight game, rookie Jayson Tatum had 11 rebounds and Terry Rozier had 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter. Boston lost its first two games of the season on back-to-back nights—and star free agent Gordon Hayward, too—but have not lost since.

Reserves Brandon Paul had 18 points and Rudy Gay scored 14 for San Antonio, which remains without Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard.

Hornets 104, Grizzlies 99

In Memphis, Kemba Walker scored 27 points and keyed a fourth-quarter rally to erase a double-digit deficit as the Hornets handed Memphis its first home loss of the season with a win over the Grizzlies.

Jeremy Lamb added 17 points and rookie Malik Monk finished with 13 points.

Memphis held a 10-point lead with just under 8 minutes left, but Walker re-entered the game and kick-started the Charlotte rally. Walker had nine points in the stretch, part of which included an 18-4 run by the Hornets.

Magic 115, Pelicans 99

In New Orleans, Marreese Speights highlighted an 18-point performance by hitting five of his career-high six 3-pointers during a decisive 22-6 run, and the Magic soundly defeated the Pelicans.

Speights' second 3 of the game made it 87-83 in the final minute of the third quarter. He drained four more early in the fourth, after which Orlando led 106-89.

Coming off a lopsided victory over Cleveland on Saturday, the Pelicans were unable to respond during the final seven minutes.

Nikola Vucevic, Evan Fournier and Jonathon Simmons each scored 20 points for Orlando, which shot 50.6 percent (43 of 85) from the field and 47.1 percent (16 of 34) from 3-point range.

76ers 115, Rockets 107

In Houston, Ben Simmons had 24 points, nine assists and seven rebounds and Joel Embiid added 22 points to lead the 76ers to a win over the Rockets.

After losing 105-104 on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer from Eric Gordon in Philadelphia on Oct. 18, the 76ers snapped an eight-game losing streak against the Rockets, winning in Houston for the first time since Feb. 16, 2011.

Jazz 104, Mavericks 89

In Salty Lake, Rodney Hood scored 15 of his season-high 25 points in the third quarter to help the Jazz rally to beat the Mavericks.

The Mavs hit nine of 14 3-pointers in the first half and the Jazz struggled to defend their drive-and-kick action. But Utah came alive in the second half thanks to Hood and a 25-4 run to start the third quarter.

Ricky Rubio saw his shot begin to fall in the second half and finished with 20 points. Rudy Gobert added 17 points, 12 rebounds, six blocks and six assists.

Raptors 99, Trail Blazers 85

In Portland, DeMar DeRozan had 25 points and the shorthanded Raptors beat the Trail Blazers.

The Blazers were foiled at home by a cold second quarter with just six total points and Toronto went on to lead by as many as 26. The win extended the Raptors' winning streak over Portland to five straight games.

Damian Lillard had a season-high 36 points for the Blazers, who got within 13 in the final quarter.

Chiefs force 5 TOs, top Broncos in AFC West duel

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs proved Monday night they can play a little defense, too.

The same group that struggled to contain the Steelers and Raiders in back-to-back losses shut down Denver, picking off Trevor Siemian three times, picking up two fumbles and taking one of them back for a touchdown in a 29-19 victory over their AFC West rivals.

It was precisely the kind of dominant performance the Chiefs (6-2) needed against the Broncos (3-4), whose own league-leading defense held Alex Smith and Co. in check all night.

"Our defense really stepped up tonight," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "They showed a lot of fire."

Harrison Butker kicked five field goals for Kansas City, and Smith threw for 202 yards and a touchdown. Most of it went to Travis Kelce, who hauled in seven balls for 133 yards and the score.

But it was the turnovers that proved to be the difference in the game.

"That's insane," said Broncos coach Vance Joseph, who declined to say whether a quarterback change may be necessary. "You can't win when you turn the ball over five times. The guys worked too hard to have a big game to give it away five times."

Siemian finished 19 of 36 for 198 yards and a touchdown, and has now thrown eight picks and only three TD passes in the past five games. The Broncos have lost all but one of them.

"I just turned it over," he said glumly. "A couple of bad decisions."

It was a crucial bounce-back win for the Chiefs, who had their 12-game AFC West winning streak snapped 10 days ago in Oakland. The Chiefs had won five straight to start the season before losing to the Steelers and then to the Raiders on Derek Carr's last-second touchdown throw.

It started just like old times, too: Jamaal Charles with a run, the Chiefs with a touchdown.

The only difference was Charles, who went to four Pro Bowls with the Chiefs, was back in Kansas City with the Broncos. And the TD came when the opportunistic Marcus Peters stripped him, picked up the loose ball and returned it 45 yards for the opening score.

"That definitely changed the dynamic of the game," Chiefs defensive tackle Chris Jones said.

When the Chiefs were on offense, they went right to Kelce, who also had success against the Broncos in both of their meetings last season. He beat Darian Stewart for a 29-yard TD catch and a 14-0 lead.

"I want the ball every single play. That's just how I grew up playing," he said.

The Chiefs were threatening to put the game out of reach later in the first quarter when Reid got cute with the play-calling. Rather than keep the ball in the hands of Smith, who hasn't thrown a pick all season, he let wide receiver Tyreek Hill throw it—a and he was intercepted in the end zone.

"I messed it up myself," he said. "I know coach Reid isn't going to let me throw another one."

Still, Kansas City led 20-3 when the Broncos' offense finally found some rhythm.

They marched 60 yards to set up their second field goal by Brandon McManus, and then capped an 80-yard drive with Booker's touchdown run.

Vanuatu-bound NMI track team perseveres

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The newly resurfaced Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility has yet to be opened, forcing the three Mini Games-bound runners to look for alternative training venues.

Northern Marianas Athletics development officer Elias Rangamar knows the challenge the three-member CNMI national athletics team is facing when it comes to having a proper training facility and he is proud to say that the squad perseveres.

"It has been a challenge for our team to have no actual track oval to train with. They could not get the feel running on an actual rubber surface with the actual distances. We don't have any track to train on, especially with the track oval still closed after the repairs. For now, we use any available facility," Rangamar said.

Veterans Beo Ngirchongor and Zarinae Sapong and Jamie Pangelinan are the members of the small team that wiill represent the CNMI in the 10th Pacific Mini Games set from Dec. 4 to 15 in Port Vila, Vanuatu. Rangamar and Ron Olopai will join them as coaches. Ngirchongor will be competing in the men's 200m and 400m runs, while Sapong and Pangelinan are both entered in the women's 100 and 200m races. NMA chose to send only sprinters to Vanuatu since their athletes in other running and field events also have no adequate training facility.

"We don't have the venue for our athletes in the field events. We need a field just like the one at the Oleai Sports Complex. You can't just train in any open field because we might hit or damage something," said Rangamar.

For now, the Vanuatu-bound CNMI track team is using the CPA Airport field, which also hosted the first three legs of the Annual NMA All Schools Cross Country Series. The runners are hoping they will get the chance to use the field at the Hopwood Middle School. They compensate the lack of training facility through dedication as they train four to five times a week, starting with a 5am session. The CNMI athletes sometimes hold practice sessions twice a day.

In related news, Tahiti has threatened to skip the Vanuatu Mini Games if the Pacific Games Council will not drop the names of the boxers submitted by the Polynesian Boxing Federation.

French Polynesia President Édouard Fritch, in a letter to PGC president Vidhya Lakhan, said FPB is not a duly recognized national federation by the French Polynesia (Tahiti) Olympic Committee. Lakhan, in response, said FPB is backed by the International Boxing Association with no less than its president Dr. Wu Ching-kuo sending a letter to the PGC, stating that FPB is the duly recognized boxing group in Tahiti.

MPP women's team gets gold

Marianas Pacific Paddlers, the only women's team from Saipan to compete in the 19th Micronesia Cup, won the gold in the 1000m event of the tournament held over the weekend at Matapang Beach in Guam.

MPP had a winning time of 6:28:4, besting strong teams from Guam and Palau. Paddling for MPP Green in the 1000m finals were Katie Graziano, Valerie Hofshneider, Diane Mallari, Bonny Cruz, Mallory Muña, and Hazel Tudela.

MPP Black topped competitors with a time of 3:08:07 to land a spot in the 500m sprint finals with Arielle Buyum, Victoria Camama, Maria Ornes, Vicky Aldan, Lei Tenorio and Shelli Neal steering and Renee Reyes as an alternate. Both MPP teams competed in the eight-mile distance race from Guam's Boat Basin to the Hospital Point. Battling amongst 11 other female teams, both MPP squads came in with personal best record times for the distance race.

MPP thanked all of its supporters and gold sponsors Godfather's Beach Bar at Fiesta Resort, N15 Architects and the Shack and Silver Sponsor Numbers International. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Pacific Paddlers members pose for a group photo after competing in last weekend's 19th Micronesia Cup in Guam.

FINAL

From Page 28

petition.

Shirley's will be challenging the third-ranked MP United, which finished the elimination with a 3-1-2 slate. MP United collected 16 goals in six games before the playoffs and gave up the same number of goals to its opponents.

In the other semis pairing set for 2:30pm, the No. 5 ranked Southern United will be tested against No. 2 Kanoa, which will enter the postseason with a 5-0-1 record, 31 goals for and nine goals against. Southern United got only two wins in the elimination and had four losses, but was third in the most goals scored ranking with its 25 and allowed also the third least (11) in the group.

In its playoff game versus No. 4 Paire (2-1-3), Southern United got two each from Jerlyn Castillo and Jenisha Dubrall, while Sue Anne Huevos, Keisha Deleon Guerrero, and Haidee Manibusan chipped in one each. Anisa Villagomez made the lone goal for Paire, which joined Matansa FC to the showers. Matansa missed the playoffs as it placed last (0-1-5) in the team standings after the elimination round.

Meanwhile, the winners of the two semis games this weekend will collide for the division championship on Nov. 11 at 1pm.

BOYS U17
MP United 9, Kanoa 0

MP United zeroed in on the division title after blowing out Kanoa last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

MP United now has a 7-1-0 record with two games left in the season and a win over TanHoldings this weekend will formally give the former the fall crown.

Sunjoon Tenorio had a hattrick in MP United's demolition of Kanoa, which dropped to the bottom of the standings with its 1-1-6 mark. Kwang Jo Lim added a pair for MP United, while Edwin Kim, Skyler Poon, Anthony Fruit, and Dai Podziewski contributed one apiece.

TanHoldings 3, Matansa 1

TanHoldings moved up to second place after beating Matansa.

Mark Esalan and Albert Bergancia scored for TanHoldings, which improved to a 5-2-1 record against the 5-0-3 of Matansa. TanHoldings's other goal was off Matansa's miscue, while the latter avoided the shutout loss when Joshua De Leon found the back of the net in the second half.

Paire 3, NDA 2

Paire got out of the cellar after slipping past the National Developing Academy.

Rex De Jose knocked in a pair of goals for Paire, while Logan Mister hit the other one. Joshua Galarion logged the only goal for NDA.

Paire and NDA now hold similar 2-0-6 records for a tie for fourth to fifth place in the team standings.

BATANG

From Page 28

bench, helping Batang Bear Brand bounce back from a slow start and grab the lead from Empe Light, 40-31. Batang Bear Brand was behind after the first period, 14-17.

After taking the driver's seat, Batang Bear Brand did a good job protecting its lead in the second half to hand Empe Light its sixth loss in nine games. Che put the finishing touches on Batang Bear Brand' s 10-point victory against Empe Light after knocking down four triples in the fourth quarter.

Meanwhile, in last Saturday's game, Tropang Ridhors snapped a two-game losing skid after nosing out Batang Bear Brand in overtime.

Sam Fernandez drilled a triple, while Junar Guiab nailed Ridhors' two other field goals in the extra five minutes of play to pull off the win. Batang Bear Brand, which led in the majority of the match, lost in the homestretch after making only two free throws in the extension period.

Ken Viray top-scored for Ridhors with his 24 points, while Guiab added 22. John Paul Morales and Fernandez also finished in twin digits with 15 and 10, respectively, while Spott had 36 markers on a losing effort for Batang Bear Brand.

Sunday Game

Batang Bear Brand 80 — Spott 21, Esdrelon 20, Che 20, Ariar 8, Achas 7, Flores 4.

Empe Light 70 — Rabasto 20, Gunnacao 13, Gallardo 12, Reyes 10, Peredo 6, Tengco 4, Espinosa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-17, 40-31, 56-50, 80-70.

Saturday Game

Tropang Ridhors 73 — Viray 24, Guiab 22, Morales 15, Fernandez 10, Claveria 2.

Batang Bear Brand 68 — Spott 36, Che 14, Ariar 8, Flores 7, Lansang 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-28, 36-39, 49-50, 66-66, 73-68 (OT).

LEE

From Page 28

lyzed each hole and was careful with my approach on the greens," he said.

Lee picked up a golf club when he was just five years old, with the help of his dad Young Woo and mom Young Sook Kwon, who are also golfers. His dad owns a business aside from working at Laolao, while his mother is a stay-at-home mom and helps him with his school work.

"It was my own choice to get into golf. My parents told me that I used to watch Tiger Woods when I was five years old. Tiger Woods pretty much became my inspiration," said Lee.

Once he finishes high school either here or in the mainland, Lee has already set his sights on joining the University of Texas Longhorns' golf program once he graduates. "I plan to go to University of Texas [at Austin] and get a scholarship to play golf in college."

The Longhorns play in the Big 12 Conference in NCAA Division I and hold three national titles—the last was in 2012 after they beat the University of Alabama Crimson Tide, 3-2, in the finals at the Riviera Country Club at Pacific Palisades in California.

Lee is a consistent contender in various golf tournaments on Saipan and has won a number of events. He is also no stranger to international competitions, as he participated in the IMG World Championships at the Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego, California last year and won twice in the Annual BMW Junior Open in Guam.

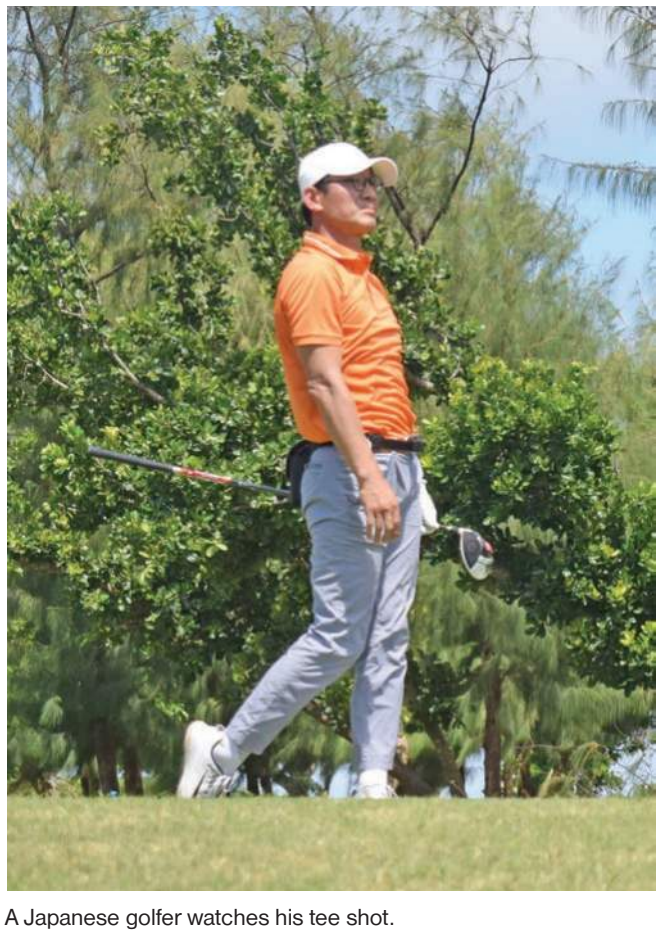
Meanwhile, Japan's Yuna Yamashita duplicated Lee's feat in the women's low gross contest. Yamashita had scores of 86 and 76 for a one-stroke victory over Yu Ri Kim (83-80, 163). Noriko Togawa tallied a 166 (85 and 81) to complete the Top 3.

Marianas International Cup 2017

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Businessman Willie Tan, left, watches the direction of his putt while two other golfers from his group wait for their turn in the sponsor's tournament of the Imperial Pacific Resort-organized Marianas International Cup 2017 held on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort last weekend.

The CNMI's Manny Mangarero watches the direction of his putt.



A Japanese golfer watches his tee shot.

One of the local golfers watches the direction of his shot after teeing off at Laolao east's No. 9.

CNMI country champion Thomson Palik attempts to make his putt.

A Japanese golfer makes the thumbs up sign after teeing off.

A participant in last weekend's inaugural Marianas International Cup 2017 tees off.

Eli Buenaventura, left, puts his ball back, while Manny Mangarero looks on.

Astros, Dodgers connect, riveting Series onto Game 6

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Curry scores 31 as Warriors blow past Clippers

PAGE 25

Final Four cast complete

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Paire Football Club player kicks the ball during their elimination round game against Southern United Football Club in the girls U15 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The race for the championship in the girls U15 division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League is down to four teams as two more squads were eliminated last Saturday during the start of the playoff round at the Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Field.

Southern United Football Club and MP United FC remained in contention for the fall title and joined early qualifiers Shirley's FC and Kanoa FC to the semifinals after downing their separate playoff opponents. Southern FC eased past Paire FC, 7-1, while MP United nosed out TanHoldings FC, 1-0.

Maury Zon Tybaco scored the winning goal for MP United in extra time (83rd minute). With the close victory, MP United arranged a Final Four duel against Shirley's this Saturday at 1pm.

Shirley's automatically moved into the semis after topping the round-robin elimination with its perfect 6-0-0 win-draw-loss record. The five-time (straight) champion also led the division in the most goals scored (34) in the preliminary and yielded the least (3) to remain the favorite to prevail in this season's com-

See FINAL on Page 26

Lee beats veterans, plans future in golf

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Dandan Middle School's Dong Young "Edward" Lee bested veteran golfers that competed in the Marianas International Cup 2017 as he won the low gross category of the Imperial Pacific Resort-organized tournament over the weekend.

The eighth grader prevailed against Feng Chun Jin, J.J. Atalig, Ryan Park Kim, Jong Hoon Park, Gi Yeong Kim, and Seung Woo Kang, and his father, Young Woo. Despite his recent success, Edward is not resting on his laurels and is looking ahead of his promising golf career.

"I'm still in middle school, but I'm looking to go to high school either here or in the mainland. I know it is still early, but I also plan to get a scholarship to play golf in college," Lee told Saipan Tribune before hitting Laolao's driving range to practice.

He usually practices for one hour at the driving range after school to hone his skills. His regular training session paid off last Sunday as he shot a 65 at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east course to bounce back from a tough first round of 75 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Lee posted a two-day total of 140 for a two-shot win over closest pursuer Ryan Park Kim, who had a 76 and 66 for 142. Atalig came in at third with rounds of 76 and 68 (144).

"Almost all of us had a bad first round. Maybe it was the wind, but I'm grateful that I bounced back on the final day. That 65 is so far my personal best score. Kingfisher is a tough course for me. It was new to me since we don't usually play there. The greens are harder and the wind was a factor too. I feel comfortable at Laolao. Though I'm used to Laolao's layout, I still ana-

See LEE on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Dong Young "Edward" Lee, center, receives his champion's trophy after winning the men's low gross in last weekend's Marianas International Cup 2017 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's The Grill. Others in photo, from left, are Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman, Marianas International Cup tournament coordinator David Largent, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd. executive vice president Tao Xing, and Imperial Pacific Resort senior vice president for hotel operations Jerry Miao.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Batang Bear Brand's Hal Spott, center, unloads an uncontested shot in front of Tropang Ridhors' Ken Viray, left, and Junar Guiab during the second quarter of their game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Batang Bear Brand splits games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Batang Bear Brand posted mixed results in the pair of matches it played in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League over the weekend at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Batang Bear Brand defeated Empe Light Blue last Sunday, 80-70, making up for its 68-73 overtime loss to Tropang Ridhors last Saturday.

Against Empe Light, Batang Bear Brand got at least 20 points each from three players to improve its record to a 5-3. Big man Hal Spott scored 21 points, while Jeff Che added 20—the same output Elmer Esdrelon registered when he suited up anew for Batang Bear Brand after missing last Saturday's game.

Esdrelon and Spott combined for 16 points in the second quarter, while Joseph Achas chipped in 7 off the

See BATANG on Page 26